

HONORING COMCAST CARES DAY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Comcast Cable Communications for their contributions to community service and volunteerism as demonstrated in their unique one-day Comcast Cares Day volunteer community project.

Comcast Cable Communications has an impressive history of investing in the people and the communities that they serve. From its founding more than 40 years ago, Comcast has diligently given back to its communities through various community outreach programs. In 1997, Comcast employees and their families participated in the Philadelphia Cares Day. The Philadelphia Cares Day began as a day of city-wide community service in the Comcast headquarters' hometown. Over the next several years, Philadelphia Cares Day became what is now known as Comcast Cares Day. Today, Comcast Cares Day, the signature event of the company, is a national day of volunteer service for Comcast employees and their families in all the communities where Comcast operates.

The goal of Comcast Cable Corporation is to have 30,000 volunteers go into the communities the company serves and give back by improving the community aesthetically and by creating a stronger social presence for the company. At each event, Comcast goes out of their way to provide free manpower, supplies, and refreshment for each event. Most importantly, Comcast Cares Day unifies the company with the local community by working together towards a common goal.

In 2004, Comcast employees and their families volunteered to give back to their community during Comcast Cares Day. This inspiring group of individuals logged an estimated 180,000 hours worth of service in their respective communities. After such an impressive turnout in 2004, Comcast hopes to exceed their number of volunteers in 2005 by completing projects such as cleaning, painting, landscaping, preparing meals at food banks, and refurbishing community parks and recreation centers.

Specifically our area, the spirit of volunteerism and activities of Comcast employees' creates a positive impact on the Plymouth Township Community. One hundred and ninety volunteers will be recruited to work in Plymouth Township and they will address numerous community needs in a day of service to their fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Comcast Cable Corporation for their commitment to volunteerism and community service, not only in Pennsylvania, but throughout the country.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COLLEGE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate San Joaquin Valley College on the celebration of their 20th Anniversary.

San Joaquin Valley College deserves to be commended for its dedication to maintaining a quality educational environment for all of the students on its various campuses. The college has made enormous progress within its twenty-year history. San Joaquin Valley College has advanced from a student body of less than 20 and a staff of only 11 to having over 660 students with a faculty of over 100 employees.

San Joaquin Valley College was founded in 1985. From their humble beginning, the college has always put their students first. They offer degree and certificate programs in business, medical, and technical fields. The college has ever increasing programs to fit the needs of their students. They are also committed to providing the best of both general and vocational education. From 1985 to present, San Joaquin Valley College has graduated over 8,400 students from their Fresno campus alone.

In 1995 San Joaquin Valley College became regionally accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The college makes sure to stay involved with the community. The Fresno Campus of San Joaquin Valley College is a strong partner in the local community, receiving numerous awards and recognition from some of the following organizations: The Mayor's Office for the Fresno Dental Assistants, the California State Job Training Coordinating Council for Outstanding Service Provider, the Community Appreciation Award from the United Way of Fresno County, American Red Cross and so many other noteworthy organizations.

For the past 20 years San Joaquin Valley College has created superior learning standards that can only be described as life changing by all of their graduates. They offer small classes, a family-like atmosphere, flexible class schedules, hands-on training, financial aid availability, as well as job placement assistance. San Joaquin Valley College provides quality education in order to produce quality potential employees.

We stand to commend San Joaquin Valley College as an excellent educational provider and applaud their efforts to strengthen our community.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DESOTO TRAIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate DeSoto Trail Elementary School in Tallahassee, Florida for receiving the Blue Ribbon School award under

the No Child Left Behind program. As the home of the Trailblazers they have lived up to their mascots name in earning this award. This is a testament to the quality of education this school provides and to the hard work the administrators, faculty and students have done to be one of only thirteen schools in the entire State to win this award.

Many identify No Child Left Behind with efforts to improve failing schools. However, schools like DeSoto Trail that go above and beyond what is required by the law should not be forgotten. I am extremely proud of not just the students who worked so hard, but also the faculty and administrators whom spent so many hours helping the students become better citizens through education.

DeSoto Trail Elementary is a model of excellence that will serve as an example for every elementary school throughout the United States. This school has proven that through hard work and dedication, academic success is not out of reach for any student.

Therefore, I ask every member to please, join with me in congratulating the children and teachers who have worked so hard to achieve their goal. I would also like to congratulate Principal Janis Johnson and Assistant Principal Hank McGrotha for providing this level of excellence.

The future of this country depends on the success of our education system. As the Representative of Tallahassee, Florida, I am honored and proud to be on the floor today speaking about such students and the parents who support them everyday.

CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY'S LIFE AND LEGACY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of Judge Constance Baker Motley who died September 21, 2005. Constance Baker Motley had a remarkable career as a public servant, achieving success both as an elected official and as a Federal judge. She made history and contributed greatly to the widening of opportunities for minorities and women. Judge Motley was the first woman and first African-American woman to be appointed to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, the largest Federal trial bench in the country; the first African-American woman to be elected to the New York State Senate and the first woman to the Manhattan Borough Presidency.

Constance Baker Motley was born on September 14, 1921 in New Haven, CT, where her father worked as chef for a Yale University fraternity. Her parents were West Indian emigrants who encouraged her to excel in school and to become involved in community activities. Clarence Blakeslee, a wealthy white contractor and philanthropist was so impressed by her that he paid for her college education. She attended Fisk University and graduated from New York University in 1943. In 1946, she received her law degree from Columbia University, and married real estate and insurance broker, Joel Wilson Motley. She also began work as a law clerk with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. Thurgood Marshall

interviewed her for the position and continued to mentor and support her in the years to come.

As one of the NAACP's principal trial attorneys Motley played a role in all of the major school segregation cases. She helped write the briefs filed in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954, and she personally tried the cases resulting in the admission of James Meredith to the University of Mississippi and of Charlayne Hunter-Gault and Hamilton Holmes to the University of Georgia. In the 1950's and 1960's she argued 10 civil rights cases before the Supreme Court, winning 9. She also represented such luminaries as Dr. Martin Luther King and the Reverend Ralph Abernathy.

In 1964 Motley became the first Black woman elected to the New York State Senate and in 1965 she became the first woman elected to be president of the Borough of Manhattan. In 1966 she was named U.S. District Judge, the first African-American woman to be appointed to the federal bench. Her nomination was approved only after months of fierce political opposition; President Lyndon Johnson had been forced to withdraw his earlier nomination of Motley to the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Constance Baker Motley is the author of dozens of articles on legal and civil rights issues, including several personal tributes to Thurgood Marshall. She has received honorary doctorates from Spelman College, Howard, Princeton, and Brown Universities, and from many Connecticut institutions, including Yale, Trinity, Albertus Magnus, UCONN, and the University of Hartford. Among her many other awards are the NAACP Medal of Honor and her 1993 election to the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Judge Constance Baker Motley has truly been a trailblazer in the advancement of civil rights for all Americans, and a pioneer in breaking racial and gender barriers within the once homogeneous legal arenas. She is truly not only an African-American "shero," she is an American icon as well. Judge Motley leaves behind her husband of 59 years, Joel Wilson Motley, her son Joel Motley III; three sisters; a brother; and three grandchildren.

I submit to you two obituaries from the September 29th, 2005 edition of the New York Times and from the same edition of the Washington Post.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 29, 2005]

CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY, CIVIL RIGHTS TRAILBLAZER, DIES AT 84
(By Douglas Martin)

Constance Baker Motley, a civil rights lawyer who fought nearly every important civil rights case for two decades and then became the first black woman to serve as a federal judge, died yesterday at NYU Downtown Hospital in Manhattan. She was 84.

The cause was congestive heart failure, said Isolde Motley, her daughter-in-law.

Judge Motley was the first black woman to serve in the New York State Senate, as well as the first woman to be Manhattan borough president, a position that guaranteed her a voice in running the entire city under an earlier system of local government called the Board of Estimate.

Judge Motley was at the center of the firestorm that raged through the South in the two decades after World War II, as blacks and their white allies pressed to end the segregation that had gripped the region since Reconstruction. She visited the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in jail, sang freedom

songs in churches that had been bombed, and spent a night under armed guard with Medgar Evers, the civil rights leader who was later murdered.

But her métier was in the quieter, painstaking preparation and presentation of lawsuits that paved the way to fuller societal participation by blacks. She dressed elegantly, spoke in a low, lilting voice and, in case after case, earned a reputation as the chief courtroom tactician of the civil rights movement.

Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama and other staunch segregationists yielded, kicking and screaming, to the verdicts of courts ruling against racial segregation. These huge victories were led by the N.A.A.C.P.'s Legal Defense and Education Fund, led by Thurgood Marshall, for which Judge Motley, Jack Greenberg, Robert Carter and a handful of other underpaid, overworked lawyers labored.

In particular, she directed the legal campaign that resulted in the admission of James H. Meredith to the University of Mississippi in 1962. She argued 10 cases before the United States Supreme Court and won nine of them.

Judge Motley won cases that ended segregation in Memphis restaurants and at whites-only lunch counters in Birmingham, Ala. She fought for King's right to march in Albany, Ga. She played an important role in representing blacks seeking admission to the Universities of Florida, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi and Clemson College in South Carolina.

She helped write briefs in the landmark school desegregation case *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 and in later elementary-school integration cases.

Judge Motley was a tall, gracious and stately woman whose oft-stated goal was as simple as it was sometimes elusive: dignity for all people. Her personal approach was also dignified. When a reporter wrote that she had demanded some action by the court, she soon corrected him:

"What do you mean 'I demanded the court'? You don't demand, you pray for relief or move for some action."

Charlayne Hunter-Gault, whose admission to the University of Georgia was engineered by Mrs. Motley's legal finesse, described her courtroom cunning.

"Mrs. Motley's style could be deceptive, often challenging a witness to get away with one lie after another without challenging them," she wrote in her book "In My Place," published in 1992. "It was as if she would lull them into an affirmation of their own arrogance, causing them to relax as she appeared to wander aimlessly off into and around left field, until she suddenly threw a curveball with so much skill and power it would knock them off their chair."

As a black woman practicing law in the South, she endured gawking and more than a few physical threats. A local paper in Jackson, Miss., derided her as "the Motley woman."

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed her as a judge on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York at the urging of Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York, a Democrat, and with the support of Senator Jacob K. Javits, a Republican. The opposition of Southern senators like James O. Eastland, a Mississippi Democrat, was beaten back, and her appointment was confirmed. She became chief judge of the district in 1982 and senior judge in 1986.

Constance Baker was born on Sept. 14, 1921, in New Haven, the ninth of 12 children. Her parents came from the tiny Caribbean island Nevis at the beginning of the 20th century.

Her father worked as a chef for various Yale University student organizations, in-

cluding Skull and Bones. She attended local schools in what was then an overwhelmingly white community.

One of her first experiences with discrimination came at 15, when she was turned away from a public beach because she was black.

She read books dealing with black history and became president of the local N.A.A.C.P. youth council. She decided that she wanted to be a lawyer, but her family lacked money to send their many children to college. After high school, she struggled to earn a living as a domestic worker.

When she was 18, she made a speech at local African-American social center that was heard by Clarence W. Blakeslee, a white businessman and philanthropist who sponsored the center. He was impressed and offered to finance her education.

She decided to attend Fisk University, a black college in Nashville, partly because she had never been to the South. In Nashville, she encountered a rigidly segregated society, and brought her parents a poignant souvenir: a sign that read "Colored Only."

After a year and a half at Fisk, she transferred to New York University. After graduation in 1943, she entered Columbia Law School, where she began to work as a volunteer at the N.A.A.C.P.'s Legal Defense and Education Fund, an affiliate of the National Organization for the Advancement of Colored People that Mr. Marshall and his mentor, Charles Houston, had created in 1939.

After she graduated in 1946, she began to work full time for the civil rights group at a salary of \$50 a week. She worked first on housing cases, fighting to break the restrictive covenants that barred blacks from white neighborhoods.

Also in 1946, she married Joel Wilson Motley Jr., a New York real estate broker. He survives her, as does their son, Joel III, who lives in Scarborough, N.Y.; three grandchildren; her brother Edmund Baker of Florida; and her sisters Edna Carnegie, Eunice Royster and Marian Green, all of New Haven.

Mr. Marshall had no qualms about sending her into the tensest racial terrain, precisely because she was a woman. She said she believed that was why she was assigned to the Meredith case in 1961.

"Thurgood says that the only people who are safe in the South are the women—white and Negro," she said in an interview with *Pictorial Living*, the magazine of *The New York Journal-American*, in 1965. "I don't know how he's got that figured. But, so far, I've never been subjected to any violence."

Mr. Meredith's admission to the University of Mississippi in September 1962 was a major victory for the civil rights movement. Mrs. Motley worked on the case for 18 months before Mr. Meredith's name was even seen in the papers.

She made 22 trips to Mississippi as the case dragged on. Judge Motley once called the day Mr. Meredith accepted his diploma in 1963 the most thrilling in her life.

She said her greatest professional satisfaction came with the reinstatement of 1,100 black children in Birmingham who had been expelled for taking part in street demonstrations in the spring of 1963.

In February 1964, Mrs. Motley's high-level civil rights profile drew her into politics. A Democratic State Senate candidate from the Upper West Side was ruled off the ballot because of an election-law technicality. She accepted the nomination on the condition that it would not interfere with her N.A.A.C.P. work and handily defeated a Republican to become the first black woman elected to the State Senate. She was re-elected that November.

She remained in the job until February 1965, when she was chosen by unanimous vote of the City Council to fill a one-year vacancy

as Manhattan borough president. In citywide elections nine months later, she was re-elected to a full four-year term with the endorsement of the Democratic, Republican and Liberal Parties.

As borough president, she drew up a seven-point program for the revitalization of Harlem and East Harlem, securing \$700,000 to plan for those and other underprivileged areas of the city.

After becoming a federal judge in 1966, Judge Motley ruled in many cases, but her decisions often reflected her past. She decided on behalf of welfare recipients, low-income Medicaid patients and a prisoner who claimed to have been unconstitutionally punished by 372 days of solitary confinement, whom she awarded damages.

She continued to try cases after she took senior status. Her hope as a judge was that she would change the world for the better, she said.

"The work I'm doing now will affect people's lives intimately," she said in an interview with *The New York Times* in 1977, "it may even change them."

[From the Washington Post, Sept. 29, 2005]

CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER BAKER MOTLEY DIES

(By LARRY NEUMEISTER)

NEW YORK.—When she was 15, Constance Baker Motley was turned away from a public beach because she was black. It was only then—even though her mother was active in the NAACP—that the teenager really became interested in civil rights.

She went to law school and found herself fighting racism in landmark segregation cases including *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Central High School case in Arkansas and the case that let James Meredith enroll at the University of Mississippi.

Motley also broke barriers herself: She was the first black woman appointed to the federal bench, as well the first one elected to the New York state Senate.

Motley, who would have celebrated her 40th anniversary on the bench next year, died Wednesday of congestive heart failure at NYU Downtown Hospital, said her son, Joel Motley III. She was 84.

"She is a person of a kind and stature the likes of which they're not making anymore," said Chief Judge Michael Mukasey in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, where Motley served.

From 1961 to 1964, Motley won nine of 10 civil rights cases she argued before the Supreme Court.

"Judge Motley had the strength of a self-made star," federal Judge Kimba Wood said. "As she grew, she was unflinchingly optimistic and positive—she never let herself be diverted from her goal of achieving civil rights, even though, as she developed as a lawyer, she faced almost constant condescension from our profession due to her being an African-American woman."

Motley, who spent two decades with the NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund, started out there in 1945 as a law clerk to Thurgood Marshall, then its chief counsel and later a Supreme Court justice. In 1950, she prepared the draft complaint for what would become *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In her autobiography, "Equal Justice Under Law," Motley said defeat never entered her mind. "We all believed that our time had come and that we had to go forward."

The Supreme Court ruled in her and her colleagues' favor in 1954 in a decision credited with toppling public school segregation in America while touching off resistance across the country and leading to some of the racial clashes of the 1960s.

In the early 1960s, she personally argued the Meredith case as well as the suit that re-

sulted in the enrollment of two black students at the University of Georgia.

"Mrs. Motley's style could be deceptive, often allowing a witness to get away with one lie after another without challenging him," one of the students, journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault, wrote in her 1992 book, "In My Place." But she would "suddenly throw a curve ball with so much skill and power that she would knock them off their chair."

Motley also argued the 1957 case in Little Rock, Ark., that led President Eisenhower to call in federal troops to protect nine black students at Central High.

Also in the early 1960s, she successfully argued for 1,000 school children to be reinstated in Birmingham, Ala., after the local school board expelled them for demonstrating. She represented "Freedom Riders" who rode buses to test the Supreme Court's 1960 ruling prohibiting segregation in interstate transportation. During this time, she represented the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as well, defending his right to march in Birmingham and Albany, Ga.

Motley and the Legal Defense and Education Fund, committed to a careful strategy of dismantling segregation through the courts, were amazed by the emergence of more militant tactics such as lunch-counter sit-ins, but she came to believe that litigation was not the only road to equality.

Recalling a 1963 visit to King in jail, she remarked, "It was then I realized that we did indeed have a new civil rights leader—a man willing to die for our freedom."

Motley was born in New Haven, Conn., the ninth of 12 children. Her mother, Rachel Baker, was a founder of the New Haven chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Her father, Willoughby Alva Baker, worked as a chef for student organizations at Yale University.

It was the beach incident that solidified the course her life would take.

Though her parents could not afford to send her to college, a local philanthropist, Clarence W. Blakeslee, offered to pay for her education after hearing her speak at a community meeting.

Motley earned a degree in economics in 1943 from New York University, and three years later, got her law degree from Columbia Law School.

In the late 1950s, Motley took an interest in politics and by 1964 had left the NAACP to become the first black woman to serve in the New York Senate.

In 1965, she became the first woman president of the borough of Manhattan, where she worked to promote integration in public schools.

The following year, President Johnson nominated her to the federal bench in Manhattan. She was confirmed nine months later, though her appointment was opposed by conservative federal judges and Southern politicians.

Over the next four decades, Motley handled a number of civil rights cases, including her decision in 1978 allowing a female reporter to be admitted to the New York Yankees' locker room.

Motley is survived by her husband and son, three sisters and a brother.

HONORING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOWER MERION CONSERVANCY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lower Merion Conservancy during

its 10th anniversary celebration. The Lower Merion Conservancy was formed in 1995 when the Lower Merion-Narberth Watershed Association merged with the Lower Merion Preservation Trust.

The Conservancy focuses on education, conservation and the preservation of historic resources and open space in Lower Merion Township, Montgomery County, PA. The Conservancy actively engages members of the community to participate in conservation through programs such as Stream Watch, in which individuals adopt a stream to monitor, and Bird Watch and Butterfly Watch, in which people identify and number species near their homes.

Additionally, the Conservancy has an easement program to protect Township properties and has forest restoration and native plant gardening programs. Folks from the Conservancy partner with school groups for educational programs with children, the highlight of which is the Children's Earth Day Forest. These projects emphasize to our young people the responsibility we all share to protect our natural resources.

I want to especially recognize the Conservancy's Executive Director, Mike Weibacher. His leadership and efforts in educating the public about the environment and conservation have earned him awards from the Pennsylvania Resources Council, the Pennsylvania Wildlife Association and the Pennsylvania Alliance for Environmental Education.

I am proud to represent an organization that has spent so many years in service of our environment and our community. I wish to extend my appreciation, and that of all those who have been helped by members of the Conservancy. I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting the Lower Merion Conservancy on reaching this milestone.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 209, Supporting the goals and ideals of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Domestic violence continues to have a devastating effect on American families. It is important for Congress to take a leading role in raising awareness about this issue.

I am proud to have played a leading role in creating the 1994 Violence Against Women Act during my time in the White House. Since the passage of this important act, the rate of domestic violence in the United States has diminished. However, there is still work to be done in breaking the cycle of violence and addressing the root causes of domestic violence.

Domestic violence affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, ethnic and economic backgrounds. Between 1998 and 2002, family violence accounted for 11 percent of all reported violence in the nation. 22 percent of murders in 2002 were committed by family members of the victims, and approximately 15 percent of violent crime convictions were for an attack on a family member.