

Texas to Washington. It was also a special privilege to able to give them a tour of our Nation's Capitol, many for the first time.

There is no doubt that their hard work and dedication to choir instilled in them by their director, Tammy Benton, will continue to pay dividends for the rest of their lives.

I sincerely congratulate them and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

HONORING HARRY BOTT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Harold Bott is a lifelong resident of the Bronx, the son of immigrant parents, who has worked to make his home borough a better place for all. He followed his father into the plumbing business, eventually establishing a successful contracting company. But he never forgot his community and his efforts to help were continual and tireless. He moved to Woodlawn in 1972 with his wife Loretta and their two children and he brought that same sense of community to his new neighborhood. He organized the annual 239th Street Block Party, which was a success every year. He worked with the Boys Club, organized and assisted with the June walk, the placement of flags on Katonah Avenue, the Christmas display, and also served as president of the Woodlawn Taxpayers Association. He also organized a 9/11 Memorial Tribute, the annual Veterans Day celebration, and free tennis lessons for children. He has given selflessly of himself and has served as a role model for how to improve a community. Tonight he is being honored for his contributions to the Woodlawn community and I stand with the residents of that neighborhood in thanking him for his many contributions.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF RITA D. LYNCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Rita D. Lynch, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, dedicated public servant, community activist, and dear friend to many, including myself.

Mrs. Lynch's passing marks a great loss for her family and friends, and also for the people of Cleveland's west side neighborhood, whom she served with the highest level of commitment and integrity. For nearly 30 years, Mrs. Lynch volunteered her time and talents as a member of the board of the directors with Cudell Improvement, Inc., a non-profit neighborhood organization, working on projects and implementing programs focused on uplifting all aspects of the community. Her dedication to the organization and to her neighborhood is reflected throughout Ward 18 in the City of Cleveland.

Family, friends, faith and community were central to her life. Mrs. Lynch and her late husband, Robert, often worked together on

issues of neighborhood concern. Her grown children, John and Maryann, were instilled with the values of hard work, kindness and giving to others. Mrs. Lynch's service to others continues to illuminate the hope and promise of a better day for the people of this diverse Cleveland community.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Rita D. Lynch. Mrs. Lynch lived life with a generous heart and great energy for life. Her legacy of activism and spirit of volunteerism will be remembered always, forever reflecting along Detroit Avenue, Edgewater Road and Clifton Boulevard, and she will never be forgotten.

PEDIATRIC CANCER INROADS AT UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, there is exciting news recently from the University of Florida, in Gainesville, Florida, in the fight against pediatric cancer. UF scientists believe that they have linked stem cells to a certain type of childhood bone cancer. This discovery could eventually be the key to treating osteosarcoma, the most common form of bone malignancy among children.

Osteosarcoma is a highly aggressive cancer that kills 40 percent of the children diagnosed, most of whom are between the ages of 10 and 20. Currently the only treatment is year-long doses of chemotherapy and radical surgery. Scientists contend that these stem cells, which have also been linked to cancers such as leukemia and more recently breast cancer, are the only cells that freely replicate and the ability to target these cells will allow doctors to develop new forms of therapy that are much less toxic and far less invasive than existing treatments. Good work and a hopeful prognosis, UF researchers.

CLEAVER EXPLAINS CIVIL RIGHTS—BASED OPPOSITION TO ALTO CONFIRMATION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one of the most thoughtful Members to join us in recent years is the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER) who as a former Mayor of Kansas City makes very significant contributions to the work of our Committee on Financial Services, which has jurisdiction over urban affairs.

The gentleman from Missouri is also a civil rights leader, and as a minister is very much in the tradition of those in that profession who have provided moral leadership in the long and continuing fight against racism and its effects. Recently, in the Kansas City, Missouri newspaper, *The Call*, in the issue for the week of December 9th–December 15th, our colleague laid out in a very persuasive and reasoned fashion the objections to the confirmation of Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court that

arise from his record on civil rights. I believe that this very useful analysis makes a significant contribution to the national debate on this question and I ask that it be printed here.

[From *The Call*, Dec. 9–15, 2005]

ALITO: A THREAT TO CIVIL RIGHTS
(By Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, 5th
Congressional District)

KANSAS CITY, MO.—In a almost every news story about President Bush's latest Supreme Court nominee, Samuel Alito, the subject of *Roe v. Wade*, the Court's 1973 decision guaranteeing women the right to choose to have abortions has been the focus. Unfortunately, minorities are not receiving "much information on Alito's awful" attitudes on issues of civil rights. In fact, a November 14 edition *Newsweek*, which earned a seven page story on Alito, did not bother to discuss civil rights.

One case that sheds badly needed light on Alito disgraceful civil rights record involved Beryl Bray; an Africa American house-keeping, manager at a Park Ridge, N.J. Marriott Hotel. Ms. Bray appealed to a trio of federal judge's that she had been turned down on a promotion in the Marriott operation because she "was black. Two judges wrote that enough evidence had been presented to, justify a jury trial. You guessed it, Samuel A. Alito Jr. dissented.

He downplayed the whole matter by writing that the hotel had simply made "minor inconsistencies" in how they handled hirings; Alito went further in, saying that it would be unfair to allow "disgruntled employees to impose the cost of trial of employers who, although they have not acted with the intent to discriminate, may have treated their employees unfairly."

The two judges with a different view of the case felt so strongly about their evidence that they broke. With tradition and actually criticized Alito's written opinion. According to this fellow judges in *Bray v. Marriott hotels*, Alito's position would have "eviscerated" legal protection under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The majority said that Alito's position would protect employers from suit even in situation where "the employer's belief that it had selected the "best" candidate "was the result of conscious racial bias."

In a 2001 racial discrimination case, Alito, cast the deciding vote and wrote the opinion in a 2-1 ruling that rejected claims by African American defendant who had been convicted of felony murder by an all-white jury from which black jurors had been impermissible struck because of their race.

The full Third Circuit reversed this ruling, and the majority specifically criticized Alito for having compared statistical evidence about the prosecution's exclusion of blacks from juries in capital cases to an explanation of why a disproportionate number of recent U.S. Presidents have been left-handed: Judge Dolores Slovitar, in *Riley v. Taylor* wrote that Alito overlooked the obvious fact that there is no provision in the Constitution that protects persons from discrimination based on whether they are right handed or left-handed. To compare the striking of jurors based their race is to minimize the history of discrimination against prospective, black jurors and black defendants.

My colleague, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, a former head of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and a distinguished constitutional scholar in her own right, told me that Alito, in her opinion is dangerous to civil rights.

Ms. Norton has studied Alito's, opinions and has led the Congressional Black Caucus in its opposition to the extremely conservative judge. Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-