

Committee is too great for me to allow this distraction to interfere with our ability to get our important work done.

Our Conference has important issues to address for the American people in the upcoming year. I will continue to support the ideals of this party and country and assist you in any way I can as we move forward on our agenda. Once the allegations that have been made against me have been shown to be false, I look forward to resuming the Chair for the rest of my appointed term and continuing the important work of the Committee.

Sincerely,

BOB NEY.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 664) and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 664

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and that he hereby is, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on House Administration: Mr. Ehlens, Chairman.

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and that he hereby is, ranked as follows on the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on House Administration: Mr. Ney, after Mr. Ehlens.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

PROVIDING FOR AN
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 332) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 332

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, February 1, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Wednesday, February 8, 2006, or Thursday, February 9, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker or his designee, after consultation with the Minority Leader, shall notify the Members of the House to reassemble at such place and time as he may designate if, in his opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2006

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Friday, February 3, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 332, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR
WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON
WEDNESDAY NEXT

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF HONORABLE
MAC THORNBERRY AND HONORABLE
TOM DAVIS TO ACT AS
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO
SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND
JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH
FEBRUARY 7, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY and the Honorable TOM DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through February 7, 2006.

J. DENNIS HASTERT

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, January 31, 2006, proceedings will now resume on the resolution (H. Res. 655) honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and expressing condolences to the King family on her passing.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed on that

day, 3½ minutes of debate remained on the resolution. The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) had 3½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) had no time remaining.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the time for debate on the pending resolution be enlarged by 30 minutes, equally divided between myself and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Wisconsin will have 18½ minutes, and the gentleman from Michigan will have 15 minutes.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I want to rise to say that I served with Coretta Scott King on the Federal Holiday Commission. She was the chair and I was vice-chair at her request. She did a wonderful job of carrying on the message of Dr. King. She traveled widely and was highly respected in her efforts to take the message across America and the world.

The fact that 50 States now acknowledge the Federal King holiday is in part out of respect for her leadership on the Federal Holiday Commission. The Commission was designed to achieve that. In addition, many communities across the country have celebrations of the King holiday and the life of Martin Luther King and bring to college students, to high school, and grade school students the story of how he impacted our Nation's future and our society. This happened because of her leadership as chairman of the Federal Holiday Commission.

She truly was a remarkable woman. She deserves enormous credit for carrying on the legacy of Dr. King and taking this message to America. I just have to say that she did this with great humility, with great understanding, and great ability to persuade those that she came in contact with, with groups and leaders across the Nation, of the importance of the King message.

Her life is something that we should all respect and cherish as part of the American scene. I think she deserves enormous credit for what she accomplished as chairman of the Holiday Commission. She made happen what the intent of Congress was in passing the holiday language, that the message be taken to the States and to the people of the Nation. Many of these celebrations are as a result of her efforts. A truly great woman. A great individual.

She has been recognized by many groups and well deserved all of the accolades that she has received. Her death is a great loss to our Nation; but her life was a great strength for our

Nation, and we are all indebted to her for the leadership she provided.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), a distinguished member of the Judiciary Committee.

And I would like to thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) for accommodating us with the extra time that we have here this evening for the Coretta Scott King resolution.

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Coretta Scott King, a civil rights icon. Raised on a small farm in Alabama, Coretta Scott found her way to Boston where she met Martin Luther King, Jr. The two married and moved to Montgomery, Alabama, where Dr. King became the seminal figure of the civil rights movement. Mrs. King joined her husband's pursuit of civil rights by serving as an equal partner in Dr. King's tireless efforts to pursue justice, equality, and peace.

Mrs. King recalled that after her husband's tragic assassination she felt compelled to rededicate herself to the completion of his work. Indeed, Coretta Scott King became an ardent activist in the struggle against injustice, fighting to achieve Dr. King's unfulfilled dreams.

Two years ago, I joined a civil rights pilgrimage to Alabama, and it was a remarkable experience. Led by Congressman JOHN LEWIS, a number of our colleagues visited many of the sites of the civil rights struggles, including the Kings' Dexter Avenue church. We relived the experiences of those that led the movement, saw the incredible events of that time through their eyes, and it was an unforgettable experience.

Those of us who were too young to remember well the civil rights movement continue to ask ourselves what would we have done. Would we have stood up? Would we have questioned those in power? Would we have demanded equality and justice? Or would we, like so many Americans, have remained indifferent?

The best answer we can find to that question of what we would have done is answered by asking what are we doing now to advance the cause of justice and equality. In 1960s Alabama, the Kings battled overt bigotry. Today, we arm ourselves against silent intolerance.

While we look to our past and consider how far we have come, we must keep an eye towards the future, knowing that the movement is not over and that each one of us must continue to dedicate ourselves to pursuing an America with equal opportunity for all.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased now to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), a dear friend of the honoree in this resolution, who had worked with Mrs. King for many years.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank former chairman CONYERS for yielding me this time. It is really ironic that you would be on the Judiciary Committee during all of the years that it took to get the King holiday there; and also that, as a Member of Congress, you lived through the civil rights movement with the people that we have honored in the past and with Dr. Coretta King.

I think if we had to review where we are with Coretta King, it is that she wasn't that woman behind a successful man. She was truly a partner and a leader in her own right. Somehow she knew when to speak out and when just to leave it to Martin Luther King.

What I have found over the years is that she has such a personality and such a soothing voice; but, boy, I am telling you, if it dealt with a challenge against what is right, against inequality and injustice, this very soft spoken, beautiful woman knew how a civil rights leader is supposed to take risk and go to the mat.

□ 1730

When we lost Dr. King, how quickly she was able to pick up that torch and to give to this Nation the leadership that really turned us around from a Nation that was struggling with racism and even today continues in that fight for equality for all Americans.

Those of us that were able to march with Dr. Martin Luther King cannot think of a time when she was not there marching with him. Any pictures from the past, Coretta Scott King was there.

How often we work with these people as though they are mere mortals, only to find out when they are gone how deep that vacuum has been made by their loss. For all of the groups that Coretta Scott King has provided the leadership for, we hope since we cannot replace Coretta King, that all of us have in us some type, some quality of the conviction and the courage that Dr. King and his beautiful wife had. And collectively, if all of us can say this is not a struggle for the King family or a civil rights leader, but a struggle for this great country, I think we can move forward.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and to add my support to H. Res. 655 honoring the life of this extraordinary woman. As much as we loved and respected Mrs. King, her family has suffered an even greater loss. To the King children—Yolanda, Martin III, Dexter, and Bernice, know that you have our deepest heartfelt sympathy.

Hailed as the 'First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement', Coretta Scott King had to endure injustices at an early age. Born in Heiberger, Alabama and raised on the farm of her parents Bernice McMurry Scott, and Obadiah Scott, she was exposed at an early age to the injustices of life in a segregated society. She walked five miles a day to attend the one-room Crossroad School in Marion, Alabama,

while the White students rode buses to an all-White school closer by. Yet through it all, young Coretta excelled at her studies, particularly music, and was valedictorian of her graduating class at Lincoln High School.

She graduated in 1945 and received a scholarship to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. As an undergraduate, she took an active interest in the emerging civil rights movement; and joined the Antioch chapter of the NAACP, as well as the college's Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committees.

Her life would be forever changed when she met a young theology student, Martin Luther King, Jr. They were married on June 18, 1953, in a ceremony conducted by King's father, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr.

Coretta Scott King was very supportive to her husband during the most turbulent days of the American civil rights movement. After his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, she kept his dream alive while also raising their four children. In her own words, she was "more determined than ever that her husband's dream would become a reality."

For more than a decade, she worked tirelessly to have her husband's birthday observed as a national holiday. Her determination would pay off when it was first celebrated in 1986.

In 1969, she established the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, dedicated both to scholarship and to activism.

With fierce determination and undying strength, Mrs. King worked to keep Dr. King's ideology of equality for all people at the forefront of people's minds. She picked up the baton when it was dropped by her husband's assassination and continued to move forward in the civil rights arena.

In her own words, "We must make our hearts instruments of peace and nonviolence, because when the heart is right, the mind and the body will follow."

She exemplified courage, strength, and a deep compassion for justice. Coretta Scott King will be remembered as one of America's greatest treasures and will be forever missed.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), who has worked in the King venue even before she became a Member of Congress when she was a staffer and when she was a State senator in California.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and for his leadership and say to him what an honor it is to serve with him. Mr. CONYERS is truly an icon and someone for us all to follow.

It is with a deep sense of gratitude and yet a deep sense of sadness that I rise tonight to pay tribute to the late Coretta Scott King and offer my sincerest condolences and prayers to her family and friends.

Today we mourn the loss of an incredible woman, an American legacy. She joined her husband, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the front lines of the civil rights movement and made it her life's work to ensure that civil rights, a nonviolent struggle for justice, continued. You see, Mrs. King's marathon for justice and yes, for peace,

transcended race, gender and national boundaries.

Mrs. King was really an example for us all of us. I remember her leadership in fighting to end apartheid in South Africa and her determination to connect all of the dots of how social injustices affect us all.

As a congressional staffer to my predecessor Congressman Dellums, I remember the 15-year legislative battle, led by the great Congressman Mr. JOHN CONYERS to create a national holiday honoring Dr. King, but it took a grassroots national movement and Mrs. King's tireless advocacy to finally have this legislation enacted into law. That is when I first met this brilliant, beautiful woman.

Mrs. King was a role model for many women, including myself. On several occasions she reached out to me to offer her counsel, support and love. I will always remember her words of support and her comfort during some very challenging times for me. She hugged me, and would always tell me to stay the course, and she would say that is what Martin would want.

Several years ago I was invited to keynote the Martin Luther march and rally in Atlanta on Dr. King's birthday. Again, she encouraged me to remember Martin and his quest for peace through nonviolence as part of my work as a Member of Congress. I will deeply miss this great woman.

Mrs. King stood tall when many would have been overwhelmed. Imagine how she coped when her husband was arrested, beaten and wiretapped. She was an amazing woman, and we are going to miss her.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers are with the King family this evening as we honor and as we celebrate the life of this great woman. Let us ensure that the flame of nonviolence and peace burns in her memory.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CONYERS for making sure that we have the opportunity to reflect on this great woman tonight.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a deep sense of sadness yet gratitude that I rise to pay tribute to the late Coretta Scott King, and offer my sincerest condolences and prayers to her family and friends.

Today, we mourn the loss of an incredible woman—an American legacy. She joined her husband, the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the frontlines of the civil rights movement and made it her life's work to ensure that the civil rights and non-violent struggle for justice and peace continued.

You see Mrs. King's marathon for justice and peace transcended race, gender and national boundaries. Mrs. King was an example to us all; I remember her leadership in fighting to end apartheid in South Africa, and her determination to connect the dots of how social injustice affects us all.

As a congressional staffer to my predecessor Congressman Ronald V. Dellums, I remember well the 15-year legislative battle led by Congressman CONYERS to create a national holiday honoring Dr. King. It took a grassroots, national movement, and Mrs.

King's tireless advocacy to finally have this legislation signed into law. That is when I first met this brilliant, beautiful woman.

Mrs. King was a role model for many women, including myself. On several occasions, she reached out to me to offer her counsel, support and love. I'll always remember her words support and comfort during some challenging times for me. She hugged me, told me to stay the course and that would be what Martin would want.

Several years ago, I was invited to keynote the MLK March and Rally in Atlanta on Dr. King's birthday. Again, Mrs. King encouraged me to remember Martin in his quest for peace through non-violence as part of my work as a Member of Congress. I will deeply miss this great woman.

As the head of the first family of the civil rights movement, Mrs. King always handled everything with a distinct style and grace. As a single-parent to their four children—Yolanda, Martin III, Dexter and Bernice, she raised and educated her children while keeping Dr. King's dream alive. What a woman.

Mrs. King stood tall when many would have been overwhelmed. Imagine how she coped with her husband being arrested, beaten and stabbed, her home being bombed, her phone ringing with hate calls at all times of the day and night. Imagine how she felt isolated and hunted by the very ones who swore to protect her family.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to read an excerpt from Mrs. King's autobiography, *My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr.*, just to give you a glimpse of how the King family persevered despite being under constant attack—by segregationists, by pro-war radicals, and even by her own government. She wrote:

“. . . By 1965 we were sure that the FBI was tapping lines and was treating the Movement as if it were an alien enemy. We accepted that as part of the evil and injustice that come with leadership which challenges the status quo. We knew we did not deserve that treatment from our government. . . . We believed in our vows; we never became embittered or disillusioned; we held on to our faith. . . . We were not intimidated; we just realized that it was too much to try to take on an organization like that while maintaining our struggle for civil rights. How much farther we still had to go!” Mrs. King endured warrantless domestic spying.

In Northern California, many continue to look to Coretta Scott King as a beacon of dignity in the face of adversity. We are a cultural and ethnic mosaic and continue to strive to realize the goals of the Kings' dream—peace, equality, and freedom.

Today as we pay tribute to Mrs. King's legacy, we must never forget her sacrifices and contributions to protect the liberties and rights that so many of us take for granted. And we need to recommit ourselves to the goals and ideals that she envisioned and embodied.

Wars and rumors of wars permeate our existence. Many of our young people see violence as an option to solve their problems. Mrs. King's life was about non-violence, and those who mourn her loss should embrace her ideals of peace and non-violence. It is in times like these that we must recall the legacy of Mrs. King embodied in places like Oakland's Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom Center which brings together our community to develop peaceful, nonviolent solutions to the challenges we all continue to face.

My thoughts and prayers are with the King family this evening as we honor and celebrate the life of this great woman. Let us ensure that the flame of nonviolence and peace burns in her memory.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPs), who has worked tirelessly in the field of health care since she came to Congress.

Mrs. CAPPs. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Michigan for his leadership and for yielding me this time to speak.

The opportunity to speak in memory of Coretta Scott King and the importance today to acknowledge not only what she did for racial justice in this country and the rest of the world, but what she contributed to women's rights, to children's rights, gay and lesbian rights, religious freedom, the needs of the homeless and poor, full employment, health care, educational opportunities, and the continued unrelenting emphasis on nonviolence.

She was a mentor for me and so many of us. She did not take the easy path, she took the right path. The recent confirmation of two new Supreme Court justices reminds us of the importance of expanding our civil rights, not limiting them. We can do this in memory and honor of both Martin and Coretta, and it is their lives being dedicated to the highest values of human dignity and pushing for social change that stand as a pinnacle for what we want to continue to achieve.

I have fond memory of hearing with my husband when we were studying at Yale University early in the 1960s, hearing this young promising preacher from the South come and preach in Battelle Chapel. I was touched that day, and have been ever since.

Here we have also had the mentorship of our dear colleague, Mr. JOHN LEWIS, and in taking so many of us, me included, down to Birmingham, Selma and Montgomery, I will always remember walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, and of course 2 weeks later, Dr. Martin Luther King led 25,000 men, women and children on that unforgettable march from Selma to Montgomery. Within 3 years he was assassinated, and how that must have affected his young widow. She had the responsibility to raise those young children and be concerned with his legacy, but she became a champion in her own right.

I know that we now can fully appreciate what she has accomplished and are dedicated to continuing. In her words, I want to close with these three phrases that she said, “Be a drum major for justice. Be a drum major for love. Be a drum major for peace.” Thank you, Coretta Scott King, for your life.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT), who has shown his interest in the ideals of Dr. King by joining the Committee on the Judiciary in connection with the

Voter Rights Act extension which is currently under debate.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me the opportunity not only to serve with him on the Voting Rights Act reaffirmation, but also for being able to be part of this extraordinary effort this evening on behalf of Mrs. King.

I am a proud Member of Atlanta, Georgia, a product of the civil rights movement, a product of the political movement, which says it all when you step up here and mention the name of Coretta Scott King.

I am very pleased to be able to stand here in the United States Congress and say that I am here because Coretta Scott King touched my life. In 1974, just out of college, the opportunity came for me to step into the political arena in a bid for the State House of Representatives, and at the time to be one of the youngest, but not the youngest, to be elected to that body. It was Coretta Scott King that invited me into Ebenezer to be her Youth Day speaker. Can you imagine what it meant to me to stand in that pulpit where Dr. King was? She gave me advice that sticks with me today. She gave me advice from a scripture that was so meaningful to me, that gave me the courage to step out and run for office, and that scripture was in the Book of Ephesians and Paul's letter where he said put on the whole arm of God so you will be able to stand in the evil day and having done all to stand.

That is what Coretta Scott King did for me, to give me the encouragement.

She was more than just Dr. Martin Luther King's wife, she was a leader in her own right. And in many measures perhaps when her legacy is truly written and truly examined, you will clearly see that God called her as he has called so many in our history of America and the world to come at the right time and the right place, as she established his foundation over the last quarter of a century and the national holiday. That was her legacy that gives us every year a chance to reflect on Dr. King and the establishment of the King Center.

God bless Coretta Scott King, and God, we thank You for sending Coretta Scott King our way.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), who has worked with us on civil rights issues both in this country and in other places in the world.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my appreciation and commendation to the distinguish gentleman who is the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and my friend, Mr. CONYERS, the ranking member, for bringing this important resolution to our colleagues for our consideration.

I have mentioned you cannot mention the name Martin Luther King, Jr.,

without echoing the name of this great American woman, Coretta Scott King. In all of the years I have had the privilege of getting to understand and appreciate the tremendous contributions that our African American community has made to the greatness of our Nation, I think we cannot deny the fact that Martin Luther King, Jr., and all of the accomplishments and all of the things that he has done, and in my humble opinion when times are really bad and depressing and all the things the great leader has done, I can actually say that Coretta Scott King was the healer, the soother, the one that gave Martin Luther King, Jr., all the moral support that he needed in the afflictions he had to face in bringing down so many evils and the problems affecting the civil rights of our fellow Americans who just happened to be of African descent.

I once read somewhere that it was Leo Tolstoy and Mahatma Gandhi who advocated the principle of nonviolence, and it was from those writings that Martin Luther King, Jr., took the matter in the same way that Mahatma Gandhi did in India. How important it is that we conquer obstacles by usage of nonviolence and use pure love. I really, really appreciate the fact that we have this resolution to honor Mrs. King, and I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution. I also would like to express my severe sympathies and condolences to the members of the King family.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), a dear friend who was in the civil rights movement.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding. I could not let the moment go by without at least a comment.

During the mid-1960s, the King family moved into the neighborhood where I lived and worked. That is in the North Lawndale community on the west side of the City of Chicago in the 1500 block of South Hamlin. They brought with them an aura of excitement.

I was a young schoolteacher who taught not very far from the location, and my friend and I would leave school in the afternoon and come by the King house. It was really an apartment. Sometimes Dr. King would come out and just kind of talk with us for a moment or two. They often ate at a restaurant, Edna's Restaurant, and Mr. CONYERS may know it. They would bring to the restaurant a whole horde of people. Everybody would come and watch.

□ 1745

And so on behalf of all of the people who lived in that community, I simply express condolences to the King family, but also express the great feeling of joy and inspiration that they brought to our community when they lived on the west side of Chicago during the mid-

1960s as they came north with the northern crusade.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) to close our discussion this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY). The gentleman has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from North Carolina an additional minute.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for yielding the additional minute. I am not sure I am going to be using all of that time, but thank you so much for your kindness.

To the ranking member of the committee, my friend from Michigan, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, thank you so very much for your leadership as well.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to recognize the life and work of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. The greatest contribution of this great American was her willingness to cheerfully share her husband with the world. On the day of her husband's assassination, April 4, 1968 Dr. King was due in my home community to lead a voter registration drive. But 2 days before the drive was scheduled to commence, he was diverted to Memphis, Tennessee; and that is where his life was ended. I went to his funeral in Atlanta, Georgia. In fact, the ranking member and I stayed in the same hotel there in Atlanta in 1968, and we have many memories of that week.

But I want to thank Dr. King and Mrs. King for the contributions that they have made to America. Dr. King would have been very proud of my home community. My congressional district in eastern North Carolina now has 302 African American elected officials, and the voter registration drive that Dr. King was scheduled to lead was designed to improve and increase the number of black elected officials. And so, on behalf of the First Congressional District of North Carolina, on behalf of the 660,000 people that I have the honor to represent, I extend my condolences to the King family. May God bless the memory of Coretta Scott King.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH).

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the committee for yielding his time to me, and I certainly want to thank the ranking member of this committee for all of his efforts on behalf of human rights and justice throughout not only this Nation but throughout the world. He has been an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, we lost an inspiration. We lost an icon. Mrs. Coretta Scott King was more than just the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King. She was, indeed, an incredible force in the movement for equality, for justice in her own right. And she was the strong spirit and character that certainly laid the foundation for many of us who are

present in this body tonight who serve in this Congress and in other elected offices throughout our Nation.

Mrs. King, as was indicated earlier, was born Coretta Scott on a farm in Heiberger, Perry County, Alabama to Obadiah and Bernice McNurry Scott. She graduated from the Lincoln Normal School in Marion, Alabama, at the top of her class before going to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. After graduating from college, she moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where she was classically trained as a promising opera singer.

The story is well known about her meeting Dr. Martin Luther King, another student in Boston, and their unity that was ordained before the Lord. Mrs. King was a steadfast partner of Dr. King, and she shared in his sacrifice and also his hardships. It was not an easy life that they led. It was a very difficult life that they led. They raised four children. Mrs. King raised four children. It was very difficult for her to keep her family safe and united in the face of what would ordinarily be overwhelming anger, extreme violence, and deep-seated resentment. But for Mrs. King, her majestic poise and grace made her efforts seem to the rest of us almost seamless. And after the death of her husband, she continued on with his legacy of seeking justice, equality, and liberty for all citizens.

Leading marches, participating in protests and organizing civil rights groups, Mrs. King continued to struggle against racial injustice, economic inequality, military adventurism, hate crimes, and violence.

Mr. Speaker, this Nation owes Coretta Scott King an incredible debt. We owe the King family an incredible debt for the sacrifices that they made.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN).

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman; and thank you, Mr. Ranking Member, for this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a singular privilege and a superlative pleasure to speak today in honor of Mrs. King.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. King expressed some of the great ideals of our time, ideals like injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. But it was Mrs. King who went to South Africa and, in a sense, made real that ideal by reminding the South Africans that apartheid was unacceptable, and causing many of us to understand that injustice in South Africa was a threat to justice in America.

Dr. King expressed the ideal that we should transform neighborhoods into brotherhoods; but it was Mrs. King who met with gang members and caused them to understand that it was their neighborhood and their brotherhood that was needed to cause these to be good neighborhoods.

Dr. King reminded us that life is an inescapable network of mutuality tied to a single garment of destiny, that whatever impacts one directly impacts

all indirectly. But it was Mrs. King who went to Mrs. Mandela and who visited with her as her husband was on the eve of leaving prison because she understood that Nelson Mandela's suffering was indirectly impacting the suffering of all people in the world.

So I am honored today to honor the first lady of the civil rights movement, who has been said to have been a person with a gentle spirit, but with a will, a will of steel. And while she was the first lady, I think many of us will always see her as our queen. Thank you, Queen Mother King.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

Mr. Speaker, during the last 2 days, the eulogies that have been given on behalf of Mrs. King hit the nail on the head. This was a woman who became a widow when her husband was tragically assassinated and had very young children, and she could have withdrawn from society and spent all of her time and all of her efforts raising those kids to become grown men and grown women.

She did more than that. She knew that it was her destiny to carry on her assassinated husband's legacy, and that is why we have heard such eloquent speeches on both sides of the aisle on behalf of this resolution which I was honored to introduce.

May God have mercy on the soul of Coretta Scott King, and may she join the angels and saints in paradise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, on January 31, 2006, a woman of grace and dignity passed from this life to the next. Today, with the passage of House Resolution 655, we honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the Civil Rights struggle.

There are few whose life and example transform a nation. Dr. Martin Luther King was one of those few whose exemplary life gave the promise of hope and equality to every race and color of people. But the struggles he endured as a national leader were not suffered alone. By his side stood a woman of gentleness and grace who joined triumphantly in his victories and suffered greatly in his pain.

Mrs. King embraced the principles and themes of nonviolence that her husband fought to bring to the forefront of the American psyche. After Dr. King's death in 1968, it was Mrs. King who kept his work and legacy alive. Through her, Americans were challenged to remember the sacrifices that her husband made for nonviolence, peace and equality.

As a nation, we must embrace the challenges that Dr. King and Mrs. King laid before us. At the advent of African American history month, we must remember the struggles for freedom that slaves and abolitionists jointly fought for to achieve emancipation and we must remember the struggles for equality that the many African Americans and civil rights leaders sought to escape during the Jim Crow era.

Even as we work to advance freedom and democracy to the Iraqi people and the many oppressed men and women in the Middle East

and throughout the world, we must not forget our own dark history of oppression and how it has shaped our united push for freedom. The realities of our past are a scar to our Nation, but a reminder of what we can overcome as a Nation united in a common cause. We must continue to work for freedom and opportunity for every American of every race, color, gender and ethnicity. We must do so for the posterity of our Nation and for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you and my colleagues for passing this resolution in honoring the life and legacy of a virtuous woman whose pearls of wisdom and dedication to truth, equality, and nonviolence are an example for us now and for generations to come.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the great Coretta Scott King, perhaps best known as being the wife of the Reverend Martin Luther King, was, like her husband, a pioneer in the civil rights field in her own right.

Rising from the dust of rural poverty of a small town in Alabama, she will be remembered as being an outstanding advocate of racial peace and nonviolent social change. Ms. King was a strong woman, one of the few women leaders in a civil rights movement which, at the time, consisted almost exclusively of men. Mrs. King was one of the first who broke the mold. A mother of four, which in and of itself is more than a full day's work, she also was a woman who took on a high profile position in the civil rights movement in a most difficult time of conflict in our country.

Soon after the death of the late Martin Luther King, she quickly developed her own voice and even her own causes. Although there was some overlap with her husband's battles, she broadened the civil rights agenda quite a bit, focusing on the inclusion of women in our society here at home, speaking out against the war in Vietnam, and promoting peace internationally.

She quickly moved on to stand in for her late husband at the Poor People's Campaign at the Lincoln Memorial on June 19, 1968, just two months after his assassination. At the Memorial, she spoke not just about the Reverend's vision, but also about her own, a vision about gender as well as race, wherein she called upon American women to "unite and form a solid block of women power to fight the three great evils of racism, poverty, and war." She then joined the board of directors of the National Organization for Women, as well as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and became widely identified with a broad array of international human rights issues, rather than being focused primarily on race here in the United States. This broadened view, she went on to say, was her way of carrying on the legacy of her husband, the great Reverend Martin Luther King.

In doing so, she led the effort to memorialize Dr. King, and was the greatest advocate for a national holiday in his honor, which came to fruition on January 20th in 1986, and has been celebrated on the third Monday in January every year since then.

She later founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, an institution dedicated to scholarships and activism, with the purpose of continuing on his work and providing a research center for scholars studying the civil rights era.

To the end, Mrs. King remained to be a most loved woman by all. Often compared to

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis as a woman who overcame tragedy, held her family together and then became an inspirational presence around the world. Her admirers always said that Mrs. King took on a particularly difficult task, that of carrying on her husband's work and teachings—with a sense of spirit and purpose that made her more than just a symbolic figure, but a true leader.

Indeed, her death is a heartfelt loss, not only for African Americans, but for our Nation. I wholeheartedly believe that the people of our Nation need to work to uphold the legacy of these two brave women and the civil rights movement, which, although it has come a long way, has taken recent strides in the wrong direction under a more than callous Republican leadership. Mrs. King was a most inspirational woman, whose unwavering spirit stepped in to continue the struggle for the ideals of the great Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

All of my heart and prayers go out to the King family.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Coretta Scott King, a true hero, who departed this earth on January 30, 2006, due to stroke complications. Although usually referred to as the widower of the incomparable Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the work she did after his death secured her place as one of the greatest leaders, voices, and phenomenal women in American history.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. King was born on April 27, 1927 in Marion, Alabama to Obadiah and Bernice Scott. Her parents farmed on land they had owned since the Civil War. At an early age, she witnessed the racial inequities that occurred in the Deep South; however, she recalled, "my mother always told me that I was going to go to college, even if she didn't have but one dress to put on".

Through her mother's teachings coupled with her deeply spiritual roots in the Christian Baptist faith, Coretta persevered and graduated as the valedictorian of Lincoln High School in 1945. Blessed with both vocal and musical instrument gifts, she pursued and received her B.A. on a scholarship in music and education from Antioch College in 1951. In 1953, she furthered her education and earned a graduate degree in voice and music education from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston.

While attending school, she met a young Martin Luther King, Jr., who was pursuing his doctorate in theology at Boston University. Although hesitant about the courtship in the beginning, through prayer and confirmation from God, Mrs. King married Dr. King on June 18, 1953.

The couple relocated to Montgomery, Alabama and Dr. King began work in the ministry and the Civil Rights Movement. After this relocation, there lives became almost immediately tumultuous. In fact, the first boycott occurred 2 weeks after their first child was born in 1955, and in 1956 their house was bombed. But this was no ordinary couple—the Kings went on to build a family of four children—all while helping to build the civil rights platform for a nation.

People talk about Dr. King's dream, but he wasn't the only one who had the dream. She bought into his dream, and he bought into hers, too. Mrs. King admits "when I say I was married to the cause, I was married to my husband whom I loved, I learned to love, it

wasn't love at first sight—but I also became married to the cause. It was my cause, and that's the way I felt about it. So when my husband was no longer there. . . ., I prayed that God would give me the direction for my life. . . ." Mr. Speaker, it is clear that God answered her prayers.

They were partners in the freedom movement and it is my belief that they shared the same spirit. She ran the race with him, holding the baton with him, and when he had to let go, she kept running and was able to cultivate the dream they shared.

This notion was evident in the way she transformed her grief into an aspiration to eradicate social injustice and achieve equality for all. When Dr. King was assassinated prior to a planned march, four days after his death, she traveled to Memphis and led a march of 50,000 people.

She worked diligently and tirelessly—traveling worldwide, giving speeches, organizing marches and sit-ins, receiving awards on her late husband's behalf, leading peace delegations, and developing and performing in Freedom Concerts, where she incorporated her artistic gifts in song and poetry to narrate stories of the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1969, she founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta as a memorial to her husband. She served as the founder, president, and CEO for 27 years. The organization provides an extraordinary history of the Civil Rights movement while offering interpretations of Dr. King's philosophies to over 1 million visitors each year.

In 1986, through her endless efforts, the Federal Government established a national holiday on her husband's birthday to commemorate his achievements. Mrs. King also authored 3 books, earned 60 honorary degrees, and also served in dozens of organizations. She was an untiring nonviolent warrior whose work created a lasting effect—of raising the level of civil rights consciousness and civility around the globe.

I remember asking her after a lecture she delivered in Baltimore what one lesson would she like for us to extrapolate from her life.

She replied "the thing to always remember is that the baton is handed from one generation to another. You've just got to make sure, first of all, to grab it and then don't drop it." What we must do now is make sure her efforts, spirit and commitment live on in us.

Mrs. King was an icon and a paragon of excellence. It was no coincidence that she died in her sleep—for she exited this world in the way that she physically dreamed it—with everlasting peace and love for all of humanity.

God Bless Coretta Scott King. My deepest condolences to her family.

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, Coretta Scott King dedicated her life to racial and economic justice as a leader in the civil rights movement working in partnership with her late husband, the great civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. And after his assassination, she continued her tireless efforts fighting for equal justice for children, the poor and the forgotten among us.

She was a passionate advocate for equality here in the United States and around the world. Her efforts ensured a fledgling civil rights organization—the Southern Christian Leadership Conference—had the funds to continue its critical work and her actions made

certain apartheid did not fade from the world's conscience.

Mrs. King once eloquently said, "Women, if the soul of the nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul." And her accomplishments—the civil rights legacy she created in her own right—demonstrate how she became our nation's soul.

As a nation we mourn the loss of one of our civil rights pioneers, Coretta Scott King. Together we must continue her life's work of equality and justice. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends at this time of loss.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution honoring the memory of Coretta Scott King who passed away yesterday morning. In a lifetime of effort and tireless struggle, Mrs. King championed the principles of peace, integrity, and human dignity. Alongside her husband, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Mrs. King strove for civil rights, endured bombings on her home, and dreamed of a better life for her children. Because of her and so many others, my children and grandchildren are growing up in a world of greater opportunity.

After her husband was taken away tragically, Mrs. King, still shouldering the immense emotional burden of her loss, did not choose to withdraw from the world. She chose instead to continue forward with the work they had started and the legacy they had built. Only 4 days after the death of King, Mrs. King led a march of 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis. For her determination and courage, we are forever grateful.

Coretta Scott was born in Heiberger, near Marion, Alabama, on April 27, 1927. Growing up on her parents' farm, Coretta walked 5 miles every day to her one-room school in order to receive an education. As a young woman, she learned the lessons of struggle and perseverance from her determined mother. These lessons helped her excel and graduate as the valedictorian from Lincoln High School. Mrs. King then went on to enroll at Antioch College where her sister Edythe had been the first full-time black student to live on campus.

Mrs. King majored in education and music, pursuing the love she had inherited from her mother. By her graduation in 1951, Mrs. King decided to become a professional singer and accepted a scholarship to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. It was in Boston that she met Martin Luther King, Jr., a fellow student. They were married 2 years later. Their first child, Yolanda, was born in 1955, only 2 weeks before the Montgomery bus boycott. Three more children soon followed: Martin Luther III, Dexter, and Bernice.

During the campaign for civil rights, Coretta Scott King did more than support her husband, she worked as his peer; giving speeches in her husband's stead and traveling to Geneva on behalf of Women's Strike for Peace as a delegate at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva in 1962. Mrs. King maintained her passion for music throughout this turbulent period, often giving concerts on behalf of civil rights. In May 1968, only months after her husband's assassination, Coretta Scott King took up his place in the Poor People's March to Washington. That year, Mrs. King founded the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change, the first institution built in memory of an African American leader.

Mrs. King was also instrumental in the establishment of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday. After personally leading an enormous education campaign and seeking an Act of Congress, Mrs. King oversaw the first national observance of the holiday to honor her husband in 1986. In 1974, she formed the Full Employment Action Council, a coalition of over 100 organizations dedicated to full employment and equal economic opportunity. In 1983 Mrs. King gathered over 800 human rights organizations on the 20th Anniversary of the historic March on Washington in the Coalition of Conscience. While protesting apartheid in 1985, Mrs. King and three of her children were arrested outside the South African embassy in Washington, DC. Nearly a decade later, she stood in Johannesburg as Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as the new President of South Africa.

Throughout her life, Coretta Scott King remained a devoted promoter of positive social change. Despite grief and constant sacrifice, she continued to lend her voice to issues of social justice, human equality, and democratic progress. Mrs. King advocated for a more open-minded global community.

The world is better because of Coretta Scott King. She affected countless lives and her voice will be deeply missed, especially by those who carry on her incredible undertaking.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and accomplishments an extraordinary woman—my friend—Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

I was surprised and deeply saddened to learn of Mrs. King's passing yesterday morning. Mrs. King and I were friends and confidants for many years. She was an incredible woman—graceful and dignified—who showed strength in the face of indignation and tragedy.

Coretta Scott King was a committed activist in the civil rights movement even before she met Dr. King. After they married, she was with him every step of the way—supporting him and promoting the philosophy of nonviolence. Following Dr. King's assassination, she continued his legacy promoting social and economic justice for all. Mrs. King was determined to make his dream a reality. She did all this while remaining committed to her family and raising her children.

Mrs. King made it her mission to spread the message of peace. She was not just an American, but a citizen of the world. As human beings, we are blessed to have known her compassion and dedication.

It has been said that the ultimate measure of a person's life is the extent to which they made the world a better place. Coretta Scott King's work has forever shaped the way we treat each other as human beings. Her passing marks the end of an era. It is up to all of us to honor her dedication and continue the struggle for equality.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History month, it saddens me that our nation has lost one of our foremost civil rights activists—Coretta Scott King.

Though best known as the wife of the great Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta had a distinguished career herself. She was an activist not only for racial equality but for economic justice, women's and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, religious freedom, the needs of the poor and homeless, health care, educational opportunities, nuclear disarmament and ecological sanity. She was also a power-

ful voice in bringing an end to the scourge of apartheid in South Africa.

During the civil rights movement, she was at the forefront of the movement alongside her husband. Coretta was a music student and she brought her talent to the civil rights movement by performing in "Freedom Concerts," singing and reading poetry to raise money for the cause. Planning marches and sit-ins, she never relented even after her family members were targets of beatings and stabbings. She never relented, even after the jailing of her husband. She never relented, even after their family home was bombed.

Long after Martin's assassination, Coretta continued her work and concentrated her energies on fulfilling her husband's work by building The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream.

I had the pleasure of meeting her. For me, meeting her was meeting an icon. The civil rights movement began when I was about 8 or 9. Years later, to meet her in person was awe inspiring. It was, frankly, astonishing. Coretta Scott King was not a witness to history, she was an active participant and a leader in making history. Speaking to her one on one was a humbling experience and one that I will never forget.

Coretta Scott King will be sorely missed by people not only in the United States but those throughout the world who looked to her as a strong woman and a leader in the non-violent resistance movement.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the courageous Coretta Scott King.

Mrs. King first came to the public eye as the wife of the great civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Aside from being Mr. King's wife, Coretta Scott King became an international symbol for the civil rights movement and a prominent advocate of the women's rights movement. As a civil rights leader, Mrs. King's vision of racial peace and nonviolent social change was a fortifying staple in advancing the civil rights movement.

Following her husband's untimely death, Mrs. King fought strongly to continue battling the struggle against social injustice. Mrs. King went on to found the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, GA, and led a valiant effort for a national holiday in honor of her late husband. Both actions are a strong indicator of Mrs. King's dedication to scholarship and activism.

Through her continued efforts, Mrs. King came to be seen as an inspirational figure. Her enormous spirit and strong moral values came to personify not only the ideals Dr. King fought for, but also personified a movement that transformed our Nation.

I would like to extend my thanks to Mrs. King for all the wonderful contributions she made throughout her life. I also would like to extend my prayers and condolences to her family, who will undoubtedly continue to fight for what Mrs. King stood for.

It is an honor to stand and praise all the hard work this beloved figure has done to better our Nation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the passing Monday night of Coretta Scott King, filled me with sadness, an emptiness, and a determination to see her work through to the end. She was a courageous, heroic, and beautiful individual who sacrificed her life

so Americans might relish in the gift of equal justice. Coretta Scott King and her late husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were Americans of monumental strength and stature through their lives. In times of struggle, frustration, injustice, and violence, they spoke of composure, grace, love, and equality.

They will be remembered for their tireless and ceaseless efforts to advance race relations, civil rights, social justice and human rights.

I would like to share a few quotes with you. These are moments in which the voice, character, and spiritual tenacity of Mrs. King was captured. When a heroine passes away, we look to her words, and our memories, to convey the spirit and tenacity she carried with her, brought into every room, and left imprinted on our souls.

Coretta Scott King once said, "Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated." Whether segregation, sexual orientation, the rights of the poor or the rights of women, Mrs. King spoke with a voice that resonates beyond the limits of radiowaves and printed pages and out to who are desperately in need of help.

I have known Coretta Scott King over the last several years, and she had a rare gift to motivate others to carry on the legacy of equality, the idea of freedom, and social justice which was first accomplished by her husband and partner, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is our duty in her honor to never waver in the face of injustice and degradation.

"Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won; you earn it and win it in every generation." These words of Coretta Scott King are increasingly relevant.

As a member of the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees, my thoughts can't help but turn to yesterday's confirmation of Justice Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court. I have had concerns about Justice Alito's past judicial record. I am still apprehensive, and I would like to take this opportunity to point out what I believe is a test of civil liberties presented today.

The tragic passing of Coretta Scott King, a formidable human rights and civil liberties activist, and the concurrent confirmation of Justice Alito, may foreshadow difficult times ahead for American freedoms. Much of what Coretta Scott King fought for is now threatened by Justice Alito's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court. His dubious record on voter's rights, discrimination issues, civil rights, civil liberties, reproductive freedom, the right to privacy and environmental protections, among others, fly in the face of the life and work of Coretta Scott King. The passing of Coretta Scott King and the confirmation of Justice Alito should be a wake-up call to America.

Dr. and Mrs. King will forever hold an esteemed place in my heart and the hearts of all Americans. As an African-American woman, and a Member of Congress, I shall endeavor in my own way to continue their fight for equality and justice every day.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. She was the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and an important figure in the civil rights movement in her own right. She passed away Monday night in California.

Coretta Scott King was born in Marion, AL, on April 27, 1927. She attended Antioch College in Ohio and earned a B.A. in music and

education. During her postgraduate studies at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston she met her future husband, Martin Luther King, Jr., who was studying systematic theology at the nearby Boston University. They were married on June 18, 1953 in her hometown of Marion.

While she devoted most of her time to raising their 4 children, her husband's prominent involvement in the civil rights movement meant that she, too, was deeply involved. She took part in sit-ins at segregated restaurants, organized marches, and performed in many "freedom concerts." She even marched with Dr. Martin Luther King from Selma, AL, to Montgomery in 1965. Just days after her husband was slain she and three of her children traveled to Memphis to lead a march honoring his life.

She not only honored his life but also ensured that his legacy would live on. In 1969 she founded the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, GA, as well as the Coalitions of Conscience to advocate for human rights issues.

King has carried the message of non-violence and her husband's dream to nearly every corner of the globe. In 1962 she served as a delegate to the 17-nation disarmament conference in Geneva, Switzerland. She was the first woman to deliver the class address to Harvard University students and the first woman to preach at a service in St. Paul's Cathedral in London. She stood beside Nelson Mandela when he became the first democratically elected president of South Africa and she was an eye-witness to the signing of the Middle East peace accords.

Coretta Scott King was a woman of great influence, wisdom, compassion, and determination. She was a woman who devoted her life to making our world a better place. I leave you with a quote from Coretta Scott King, "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation."

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, as I rise today to speak on the life of Coretta Scott King I can't help but be reminded of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying Lord, Lord open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not." The life of Coretta Scott King was one that was spent prepared to serve her Lord and fellow man and she has now joined her bridegroom.

The words and deeds of Coretta Scott King have made an indelible imprint not only on the lives of Americans but of all people across the world. From her work with Nelson Mandela and in the struggle for civil rights to her work on behalf of the gay and lesbian community she was always willing to stand with those who were defending their right to live a life of freedom. She served as a true moral compass for all people. We need more people to live like Kings.

She was a phenomenal person who was kind to all she met and worked tirelessly on behalf of those she had not. I want to express my deepest condolences to the King family on behalf of the people of the 7th Congressional District. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. Today we mourn the

loss Mrs. Coretta Scott King. We honor her personal strength, her determination as a civil rights leader and her vision of a nation where freedom is denied to no man and to no woman.

Together Coretta Scott King and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked to create an America where all people are equal. Together they marched through the streets for civil rights, and together they spoke before church, civic, college, fraternal and peace groups to encourage peace.

After her husband's tragic assassination in 1968, Mrs. King devoted her energy to carrying on Dr. King's legacy of nonviolence and civil rights. She built the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as an enduring memorial to her husband's dream of full civil rights for all Americans. Throughout her life, Mrs. King worked to advance the cause of justice and human rights throughout the world and spoke out on behalf of many important issues, including racial and economic justice, women's and children's rights, and religious freedom. For her continued service to our country Mrs. King received over 60 honorary doctorate degrees from colleges and universities and inspired Congress to create a Federal holiday on her husband's birthday. Mrs. King was truly an American hero.

Today our thoughts and prayers are with the four King children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine, all of her family and friends, and with all of those who continue to feel the wrath of social and economic injustice.

Just as Coretta Scott King honored the memory of her husband through her work, let us honor her by continuing to fight for peace, justice and equality for all Americans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. I rise today along with my colleagues to celebrate and remember the life of a remarkable woman and support H. Res. 655. I know that I speak for my colleagues here today when I say that America has lost one of its great citizens.

Mrs. King's greatness lay in the special talents she had and her ability to use them in the numerous roles she played in her life. She started her adult life as an accomplished musician, receiving music degrees from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH, and the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA. It was in Massachusetts that she met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They were married on June 18, 1953. In 1954, with her husband's installation at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL, Mrs. King accepted the roles and responsibilities of a pastor's wife.

Mrs. King's singular talents may have been known just to members of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church if it had not been for the winds of change swirling around Montgomery in 1955. With the arrest of Rosa Parks for her refusal to give up her seat on a Montgomery public bus, the struggle for civil rights for Blacks in America formally began. Dr. King was at the epicenter of the civil rights movement, and Mrs. King was there by his side.

It is amazing that Coretta Scott King could play such a vital role in the civil rights movement while simultaneously raising a family. She was the mother of four at a time when a woman was expected to be a homemaker and

not much else. Not content to stand on the sidelines of history, Mrs. King spoke on the cause of equality to church, civic, college, fraternal and peace groups. She also produced and performed in a series of freedom concerts as fundraisers for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the direct action organization of which Dr. King served as first president.

It is easy to forget the duress under which Mrs. King lived such an exemplary life. The threat of violent death was always present. The King family home was bombed in 1956. Death threats against her family arrived by phone and mail constantly, and Martin was stabbed and nearly killed in a New York department store in 1958. The threat became reality with Dr. King's assassination on April 4, 1968. No one would accuse Mrs. King of cowardice if she had retired from public life after Dr. King's death. But Dr. King's dream of an undivided America became her dream, and Mrs. King continued to work as an advocate for equality through nonviolent resistance.

Mrs. King devoted much of her energy to developing the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. She led goodwill missions around the world speaking at massive peace and justice rallies. She was the first woman to deliver the class day address at Harvard University and the first woman to preach at a statutory service at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

Mrs. King led the campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday. In 1983, the 98th Congress passed H.R. 5890 instituting the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, which Mrs. King chaired for its duration. And in January 1986, Mrs. King oversaw the first legal holiday in honor of her husband—a holiday which has come to be celebrated by millions of people.

My thoughts and prayers are with the King family. I hope that this resolution honoring Mrs. King will be a comfort to them at this difficult time.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Mrs. Coretta Scott King, the widow of civil rights pioneer and icon Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. I join millions in this country and around the world who mourn her passing and celebrate her life. I extend my condolences and prayers to her children and family.

Coretta Scott King was born in Marion, AL, on April 27, 1927. She grew up in segregated Alabama. Mrs. King went on to study music at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, OH, and later studied at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA. It was in Boston, where she met Dr. King, who at the time was working on his doctorate in theology at Boston University. They married in 1953 and had four children, Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernice Albertine.

Coretta Scott King marched beside her husband in towns across the then segregated south. Mrs. King did not quietly slip out of public life. With dignity and courage, she chose to continue to work for justice, access, and equality. She advanced the message of social justice, peace, and mutual respect.

Mrs. King started the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non Violence and Social Change out of the family home in Atlanta. The Center now houses the tomb of Dr. King and thousands of documents related to his work. Thousands of people each year visit the center,

which sits in Atlanta's Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site.

Coretta Scott King was active in the fight against apartheid in South Africa and an advocate for human rights. Mrs. King received honorary doctorates from more than 60 colleges and universities and authored three books.

As we enter Black History Month and then Women's History Month in March, I urge Congress and the American people to reflect on the legacy of Mrs. King. She was tireless in her effort to make America a better place for every American. Coretta Scott King will always be remembered for promoting racial and economic equality for all Americans.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, when I first heard the news this morning I was at once both shocked and saddened. Although Mrs. King belonged to her children and cousins and nieces and nephews, she also belonged to us—the American people and the family of black people all over the world.

When she was alive, there was a sense of comfort. Mother King guarded us, protected us; she helped set this country free when she picked up Martin's cross.

I was given the privilege of speaking at this year's Martin Luther King ceremony at Ebenezer Church. Due to illness, she watched the proceedings on the television, not able to be there with us. Our love went out to her then and it does so now. I love the King Family as do we all. Her vision and Martin's vision moved our country forward.

In 1963 Dr. King spoke of Stone Mountain, Georgia. I now represent Stone Mountain, Georgia. Change is possible in our country. It is possible for people of conscience to come together and move this country forward.

What Mrs. King embodies will not be extinguished. She is our Queen Mother. And we should spend this day reflecting on her life, her legacy, her spirit, and what we will do in our lives to further Martin and Coretta's vision for our beloved community.

My condolences to all the members of the King family; and to Martin III, Yolanda, Dexter, and Bernice.

In every sense of the word, they were our first family and now we look to the children to wear the family's mantle.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of resolution (H. Res. 655) honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and I also express my heart felt condolences to the King family on her passing.

As the wife of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Mrs. King was recognized by many as the "first lady" of the Civil Rights movement. Born and raised in Marion, Alabama, Coretta Scott graduated valedictorian from Lincoln High School. She received a B.A. in music and education from Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and then went on to study concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, where she earned a degree in voice and violin. While in Boston she met Martin Luther King, Jr. who was then studying for his doctorate in systematic theology at Boston University. They were married on June 18, 1953, and in September 1954 took up residence in Montgomery, Alabama, with Coretta Scott King assuming the many functions of pastor's wife at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

During Dr. King's career, Mrs. King devoted most of her time to raising their four children:

Yolanda Denise (1955), Martin Luther, III (1957), Dexter Scott (1961), and Bernice Albertine (1963). She performed a series of Freedom Concerts which combined prose and poetry narration with musical selections and functioned as fundraisers for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the direct action organization of which Dr. King served as first president.

In 1957, she and Dr. King journeyed to Ghana to mark that country's independence. In 1958, they spent a belated honeymoon in Mexico, where they observed first-hand the immense gulf between extreme wealth and extreme poverty. In 1959, Dr. and Mrs. King spent nearly a month in India on a pilgrimage to disciples and sites associated with Mahatma Gandhi. In 1964, she accompanied him to Oslo, Norway, where he received the Nobel Peace Prize. Even prior to her husband's public stand against the Vietnam War in 1967, Mrs. King functioned as liaison to peace and justice organizations, and as mediator to public officials on behalf of the unheard.

In 1969, Coretta Scott King published the first volume of her autobiography, *My Life with Martin Luther King Jr.* In the 1970s, Mrs. King maintained her husband's commitment to the cause of economic justice. In 1974 she formed the Full Employment Action Council, a broad coalition of over 100 religious, labor, business, civil and women's rights organizations dedicated to a national policy of full employment and equal economic opportunity; Mrs. King served as Co-Chair of the Council.

In 1983, she marked the 20th Anniversary of the historic March on Washington, by leading a gathering of more than 800 human rights organizations, the Coalition of Conscience, in the largest demonstration the capital city had seen up to that time.

Mrs. King and three of her children were arrested in 1985 at the South African embassy in Washington, DC, for protesting against apartheid. Mrs. King led the successful campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday, January 15, as a national holiday in the United States. By an Act of Congress, the first national observance of the holiday took place in 1986. Dr. King's birthday is now marked by annual celebrations in over 100 countries. Mrs. King was invited by President Clinton to witness the historic handshake between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yassir Arafat at the signing of the Middle East Peace Accords.

Mrs. King devoted much of her energy and attention to developing programs and building the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream. Situated in the Freedom Hall complex encircling Dr. King's tomb, The King Center is part of a 23-acre national historic park which includes his birth home, and which hosts over one million visitors a year.

In 1995 she turned over leadership of the King Center to her son, Dexter Scott King, who served as Chairman, President & CEO until January 2004. On that date, Mrs. King was named interim Chair and her eldest son Martin Luther King, III assumed the leadership position of President & CEO.

She remained active in the causes of racial and economic justice, and most recently devoted much of her energy to AIDS education and curbing gun violence.

A woman of wisdom, compassion and vision, Coretta Scott King has tried to make

ours a better world and, in the process, has made history. I am saddened by the loss of our "First Lady". She met the challenge of preserving the memory of her husband head on. Her tireless work in keeping the dream alive has been invaluable not only to civil rights, but to human rights. Mrs. Coretta Scott King kept the torch burning and as opposed to passing the torch, she lit torches along the way. She is a true inspiration to us all.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. I rise today in honor of the late Coretta Scott King, an extraordinary civil rights leader, who passed away on January 30th. Throughout her life, Mrs. King worked tirelessly for the struggle of non-violent activism, social justice and peace.

Coretta Scott King was born and raised in Marion, Alabama, where she graduated as valedictorian from Lincoln High School. She received a B.A. in Music and Education from Anitoch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio, before going on to study at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music. While there, she met a theology student from Atlanta, Martin Luther King, Jr., who was then studying for his doctorate at Boston University.

Before her marriage to Dr. King, Mrs. King was active in the civil rights and non-violent social change movement. As an equal partner to the young Dr. King during the turbulent times their family and the civil rights movement faced, Mrs. King organized sit-ins and protest marches; spoke at church, civic, and peace group gatherings; and performed at more than 30 successful "Freedom Concerts" to raise awareness of civil rights and garner support for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. While serving on the front lines of the fight for equal rights, Mrs. King also raised their four children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott and Bernice Albertine.

During Dr. King's life and after his death, Mrs. King was integral to the struggle for equality and justice. Just four days after her husband's assassination in 1968, in an unmistakable display of determination and perseverance, Mrs. King took his place and led a march of 50,000 people through the streets of Memphis, Tennessee. A woman of wisdom, compassion and vision, she helped to preserve her husband's legacy and played a key role in making Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a national holiday. She also worked hard to establish and make The King Center a reality. As the work of The King Center continues, local, national and international programs have trained tens of thousands of people in Dr. King's philosophy of non-violent social change.

It is with great sadness that I send my deepest condolences to the King family. Mrs. King's lasting contributions to freedom and equality will always be remembered. Let us honor Mrs. King's memory by committing ourselves to promoting civil rights and peace.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay my respects to an American treasure: Mrs. Coretta Scott King. An admirable advocate of social justice and peace, Mrs. Scott King will be greatly missed by those who care about equal opportunity for all. Alongside her husband, the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., she was a successful leader and advocate for racial peace and fought for social change.

Following the death of her husband, she maintained his commitment to racial and economic justice. Her devotion to civil and human

rights has no borders as she is recognized at home and abroad for remaining a catalyst for change.

Just as Cesar Chavez is remembered for his role in the struggle for human rights and dignity of migrant farm workers, Mrs. Scott King will be remembered for her accomplishments in the struggle for peace and justice, and for her steadfast belief that care and respect should be shown to others not because of the color of one's skin, but because of "the content of their character."

Mr. Speaker, as a nation and with the world, we mourn the loss of Coretta Scott King, a civil rights icon in her own right whose accomplished life is laudable, whose care for the human condition is remarkable, and whose loss will be felt by countless millions all across this great country that she helped unite.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in expressing my sorrow at the news of the death of Coretta Scott King and my support for the resolution (H. Res. 655) now before us.

By passing that resolution, the House of Representatives honors her life and accomplishments and her contributions as a leader in the struggle for civil rights, and expresses condolences to the King family on her passing.

I wholeheartedly join in that expression of views shared not only by the House but by millions of Americans in Colorado and across the nation.

Mrs. King was no stranger to our state. As noted in today's Denver Post, she paid her first visit to Denver in 1958 and returned to Colorado many times thereafter to further the cause of equality for which her husband and she labored for so long.

Now, in the words of the Rocky Mountain News, our nation mourns her as a champion of freedom, and Coloradans join in that mourning.

For the information of our colleagues, I attach an editorial and a news story from today's Denver daily newspapers.

[From the Rocky Mountain News, Feb. 1, 2006]

NATION MOURNS CHAMPION OF FREEDOM

Coretta Scott King, 78, died peacefully at a medical clinic in Mexico early Tuesday. While she may always be remembered as "the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Mrs. King created an inspiring legacy of her own.

Her tireless efforts convinced lawmakers to recognize her late husband's place in history with the national holiday that celebrates his birth. She stood with and spoke for the downtrodden, in America and around the world.

Mrs. King surely would have lauded the news that the Smithsonian Institution on Monday approved a site on the National Mall near the Washington Monument for the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

We've long supported a moratorium on further construction on the Mall, which has grown cluttered with newly built memorials and security barriers over the past three decades. And so we would prefer that the museum occupy land near but not on the Mall. But leading museum proponents considered such an alternative a slap in the face, and the Smithsonian board foreclosed that option.

So be it. Whatever the museum's location, the construction of such a memorial is long overdue. The task is to ensure that it be-

comes a national treasure, a source of inspiration for Americans of every heritage.

[From the Denver Post, Feb. 1, 2006.]

NONVIOLENCE ESPOUSED IN MANY DENVER VISITS

(By Claire Martin)

Despite the death threats and bombings, the assassination of her iconic husband and hostility that persisted for decades, Coretta Scott King remained such a passionate advocate of nonviolence that she insisted on her bodyguards being unarmed during her public appearances.

"In all her visits to Denver, we provided Mrs. King with security, but always that was one of her prerequisites—no weapons, no guns," said Vern Howard, longtime civil rights advocate and marshal of Denver's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade. "It was hard for us organizers. We didn't want anything to happen to her on our watch."

Coretta Scott King first visited Denver in 1958 to speak at a New Hope Baptist Church event arranged by Helen Gamble, grandmother of former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb.

King later confided to Webb that the speech intimidated her, despite her formal training as a vocalist at the New England Conservatory of Music. "As a soloist, it's easier for me to sing than to give a keynote speech," Webb recalled King saying.

Her theme in that debut—civil rights and nonviolence—set the tone for countless future speeches, first by her husband's side and then in his stead.

"She never wavered in her commitment to civil rights," said Wilma Webb, a former state legislator and the wife of Wellington Webb, who authored the state's King holiday bill. "She carried the banner. She gave us direction. She had the stature of a first lady."

King returned regularly to Colorado after her husband's death. She stumped for Wellington Webb in his first mayoral campaign in 1983 and urged him to run for the U.S. Senate in 2002.

During the mid-1980s, her visits focused on the controversial effort to create a national holiday honoring her husband.

During a visit to the Colorado legislature in 1985, a year after the assembly voted for the holiday marking her husband's birthday, House Speaker Bev Bledsoe snubbed King. Although Senate Speaker Ted Strickland allowed King to address his assembly, Bledsoe, a Hugo Republican who opposed the King holiday, refused to grant her the same privilege, provoking criticism from Democrats.

She continued to visit Colorado, sometimes to watch her playwright daughter, Yolanda Denise King, perform in one of her plays. Her final appearance in the state in January 2005 invoked a version of her 1958 message.

"We can solve conflicts without terrorism and war," she said. "This is the only way to lasting peace and security."

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. Her death is a great loss for America and for peace and justice the world over.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. King on two occasions; once in my congressional office and again at a ceremony marking the 25th Anniversary of the March on Washington. I was always impressed by her inner strength and graciousness. In troubled and violent times, she raised a family and was a genuine partner with her husband Martin Luther King, Jr. in the fight for civil rights and equality. She ensured that his dream did not die by leading the fifteen year fight to make her husband's birthday a national holiday and by establishing

the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-violent Social Change in Atlanta. Her personal activism included traveling the world advocating for women, promoting world peace and protesting apartheid. I know that I am a better person because of her and indeed our country is a better place because of her legacy.

In closing I would like to express my condolences to the King family. May the God of all comfort be there for them through all the days ahead.

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of one of the strongest and most inspirational African-American women in our country's history: Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

Mrs. King was not the person referred to in the cliché . . . she was not the, "good woman behind a great man." She was the determined, intelligent woman who stood right alongside him. When Coretta Scott married Doctor Martin Luther King, Junior, she had already led an impressive life of her own. She had already established herself as a role model. Coretta Scott graduated at the top of her high school class in Alabama, and was accepted at Antioch College in Ohio, and later at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston. She had a scholarship to the music school that covered her tuition, but she was not too proud to take a job cleaning stairwells to pay for her room and meals. It was in Boston when Coretta Scott met her future husband—Martin Luther King, Junior, and her journey as not only the wife—but the partner of a man who would change the way Americans lived, had just begun.

From the Montgomery bus boycott, to outbreaks of racial violence in the streets, to a bombing at the Kings' residence in 1956, Mrs. King stood by her and her husband's dreams of racial equality. And with the bad, came the good—Mrs. King was there for her Doctor King's uplifting sermons, his many trips abroad and his—"I Have a Dream" speech on the National Mall.

After experiencing such a tumultuous, unpredictable life as the wife of a great civil rights leader, some thought Mrs. King would choose to lead a quiet life—leaving the spotlight after her husband's untimely death. Instead, Coretta Scott King chose to carry on her the fight. Until her health started to fail her last year, she continued to speak out against injustice, and promote fairness and equality among all men. To quote the late Mrs. King, "Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated." This is a fitting epithet for the great American, the First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement, Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Coretta Scott King, and I offer my condolences to her family after she passed away in her sleep early this morning. She was a remarkable human rights advocate who was a living symbol of the struggles and successes of the civil rights movement.

Mrs. King was best known as the loving wife and widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She provided invaluable support to the man who became the Nation's leading civil rights advocate and an international icon. She stood by him as he was harassed, intimidated and eventually assassinated for fighting for equality.

Her grace and dignity after her husband's death showed the country that she was more

than just a strong wife. Alone with four children, she did not retreat but instead insisted on continuing the mission that her late husband had started. She continued the march in Memphis before his funeral. As time progressed, she spearheaded the effort to create a federal holiday to honor her husband. Her strong insistence on furthering Dr. King's ideals led to the creation of the holiday in 1983.

Mrs. King quickly became an internationally known figure who embodied the spirit of non-violent resistance and human rights advocacy. Her work was not limited solely to civil rights; She worked tirelessly for other noble causes, becoming a leader in the women's liberation movement and vocally opposing apartheid in South Africa.

Mrs. King's life is an inspiration to millions of people worldwide who struggle to overcome human rights issues. She overcame her own personal tragedy to keep her family together and further the causes of the civil rights movement.

Mr. Speaker, Coretta Scott King has been a role model for those seeking to overcome tragedy and discrimination with grace and determination. I rise today to honor her life and her legacy.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, today our nation has lost a great champion of civil and human rights. Coretta Scott King's courage and commitment should be an example to all of us.

After the assassination of her husband, the late Martin Luther King, Jr., Mrs. King devoted herself to carrying on his legacy. Only four days after his death, she took her husband's place at the head a march in support of sanitation workers in Memphis. She went on to found and lead, for over two decades, the King Center. The Center stands as a memorial to her husband, but also is an active force in the struggle to achieve equality between all people, confronting issues of hunger, unemployment, voting rights and racism. King remained active throughout her whole life, participating in protests against apartheid in South Africa in the 1980's and speaking out against the war in Iraq in early 2003.

It is the responsibility of each of us, who sit in this House and pledge to uphold the Constitution, to continue to fight for Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream of equality, which Coretta worked so unselfishly to sustain.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is a great irony that the day of Coretta Scott King's passage is the same day 141 years ago that the House of Representatives passed the 13th amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery. That the Constitutional amendment passed by but two votes during the time of our Civil War reminds us that the issue of fighting for equality and against racial discrimination has been a pitched battle throughout our history.

The widow of Dr. Martin Luther King was in the forefront of the revolution of progress and heartbreak. She will be remembered as woman of great courage and dignity whose role in this great civil rights movement is only now being fully appreciated. I join with the Nation in extending condolences to the King family and in honoring the life of Coretta Scott King.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of an extraordinary woman and in recognition of a life that meant so much to so many.

I was honored to know Coretta Scott King. She was a woman of great eloquence and dignity, but also of great faith. She endured hatred, violence and ultimately the loss of her husband, but she never lost her vision for mankind or her determination to stand up for what is right and what is just.

Coretta Scott King was one of the greatest activists in our Nation's history and it is right that we honor her here today. She carried on the legacy of her husband, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, but she had her own legacy—a legacy of putting herself on the line to make the world a better place for all of God's children. And many of us continue to reap the rewards of her work today.

Mrs. King called "Hate . . . too great a burden to bear." Saying, "It injures the hater more than it injures the hated." These are words that not only inspired millions, but that must continue to inspire us today.

As we meet in these hallowed halls, we must remember the legacy of Dr. and Mrs. King and the dream that defined their lives. We mourn her passing, but the best way to celebrate her life and legacy is to recommit ourselves to the ideals of equality and justice for all.

I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to the children and family of Coretta Scott King. Today, we have truly lost an American treasure.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 655 which honors the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

We can all learn from the life of this brave civil rights leader. Her example to us is one of perseverance and inspiration. My prayers and condolences are with the King family at this difficult time.

Throughout her life, Coretta Scott King exemplified the values of human dignity and equality, social justice, and service to others. As the mother of four children and widow of the most influential civil rights leader in our nation's history, Mrs. King spent her life advocating racial and religious tolerance, promoting democracy, and speaking out against violence.

It was her tireless effort that led to the establishment of the Martin Luther King Federal Holiday in 1983. This is a day in which Americans are called to remember the struggle of the Civil Rights Movement and to engage in community service to help others. Every generation of Americans should understand the importance of his struggle and the tremendous odds that Dr. King and others overcame to help form a more perfect union. But the work of Dr. and Mrs. King is far from finished.

There are still too many communities in America that remain divided by race. There are too many places where the color of one's skin, not the content of one's character matters. The King family has over the years accomplished great things, but work remains. As a Nation we need to examine ourselves about race. We need to understand that to this day although a people are endowed by their creator with the same rights and privileges as others in their community not all feel they can exercise those rights. Until we eliminate racism from the earth, the important work of Dr. King and Mrs. King must continue. I look forward to new generations of leaders continuing the cause and enduring in the struggle to form a more perfect union. This will truly honor Mrs. King's legacy.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King and to add my support to H. Res. 655 honoring the life of this extraordinary woman. As much as we loved and respected Mrs. King, her family has suffered an even greater loss. To the King children—Yolanda, Martin III, Dexter, and Bernice, know that you have our deepest heartfelt sympathy.

Hailed as the 'First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement', Coretta Scott King had to endure injustices at an early age. Born in Heiberger, Alabama and raised on the farm of her parents Bernice McMurry Scott, and Obadiah Scott, she was exposed at an early age to the injustices of life in a segregated society. She walked five miles a day to attend the one-room Crossroad School in Marion, Alabama, while the white students rode buses to an all-white school closer by. Yet through it all, young Coretta excelled at her studies, particularly music, and was valedictorian of her graduating class at Lincoln High School.

She graduated in 1945 and received a scholarship to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. As an undergraduate, she took an active interest in the emerging civil rights movement; and joined the Antioch chapter of the NAACP, as well as the college's Race Relations and Civil Liberties Committees.

Her life would be forever changed when she met a young theology student, Martin Luther King, Jr. They were married on June 18, 1953, in a ceremony conducted by King's father, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr.

Coretta Scott King was very supportive to her husband during the most turbulent days of the American civil rights movement. After his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, she kept his dream alive while also raising their four children. In her own words, she was "more determined than ever that her husband's dream would become a reality."

For more than a decade, she worked tirelessly to have her husband's birthday observed as a national holiday. Her determination would payoff when it was first celebrated in 1986.

In 1969, she established the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, dedicated both to scholarship and to activism.

With fierce determination and undying strength, Mrs. King worked to keep Dr. King's ideology of equality for all people at the forefront of people's minds. She picked up the baton when it was dropped by her husband's assassination and continued to move forward in the civil rights arena.

In her own words, "We must make our hearts instruments of peace and nonviolence, because when the heart is right, the mind and the body will follow."

She exemplified courage, strength, and a deep compassion for justice. Coretta Scott King will be remembered as one of America's greatest treasures and will be forever missed.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor and commemorate Coretta Scott King, a tireless advocate for civil rights and the widow of the great civil rights leader, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Today, we continue to mourn the loss of a great woman and a pioneer of civil rights. While Dr. King was the visionary behind the civil rights movement, Mrs. King was the architect. She made real the ideals expressed by

Dr. King. A driving force, she valiantly worked to found the King Center to both preserve the history of the civil rights movement and to train the many men and women in the philosophy of non-violent resistance.

Mrs. King was first and foremost a woman of strong character. She was a leader in her steadfast presence, her determination, and her courage. As one of the first people to speak out against apartheid, she embodied her husband's words "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Her passion for equality and justice led her on numerous peace delegations around the world. Her actions and work with gang members demonstrated the value and the necessity of transforming neighborhoods into brotherhoods. Mrs. King spoke out against attacks on affirmative action and against racial profiling. As a result of her unrelenting campaign efforts, a bill was signed in support of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday.

Devoting relentless energy to her noble work, Mrs. Coretta Scott King has made a tremendous impact on American history. She will be missed by all those who knew her and remembered by all those who have benefited from her enormous contributions.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of the time.

The SPEAKER. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, January 31, 2006, the resolution is considered read, and the previous question is ordered on the resolution and the preamble.

The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 655.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

The House has adopted a revision to the rule regarding the admission to the floor and the rooms leading thereto. Clause 4 of rule IV provides that a former Member, Delegate or Resident Commissioner or a former Parliamentarian of the House, or a former elected officer of the House or a former minority employee nominated as an elected officer of the House shall not be entitled to the privilege of admission to the Hall of the House and the rooms extending thereto if he or she is a registered lobbyist or an agent of a foreign principal; has any direct personal pecuniary interest in any legislative measure pending before the House, or reported by a committee; or is in the employ of or represents any party, organi-

zation for the purpose of influencing, directly or indirectly, the passage, defeat, or amendment of any legislative proposal.

This restriction extends not only to the House floor but adjacent rooms, the cloakrooms and the Speaker's lobby.

Clause 4 of rule IV also allows the Speaker to exempt ceremonial and educational functions from the restrictions of this clause. These restrictions shall not apply to attendance at joint meetings or joint sessions, Former Members' Day proceedings, educational tours, and other occasions as the Speaker may designate.

Members who have reason to know that a person is on the floor inconsistent with clause 4 of rule IV should notify the Sergeant at Arms promptly.

□ 1800

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BORDER INSURGENTS

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, our border is being held hostage by the lawless that roam the murky river banks of the Rio Grande.

Just last week along the Texas-Mexico border, about 50 miles east of El Paso, Texas lawmen faced off with outlaws dressed as Mexican army soldiers. These criminals attempted to flee Texas State authorities. U.S. law enforcement authorities were met with camouflaged military-style Humvees with .50-caliber machine guns, forcing an armed standoff along these dangerous banks of the rugged Rio Grande. The Mexican government has claimed that these so-called soldiers were actually drug smugglers. Fortunately, whoever they were, their criminal intent was foiled because U.S. border officials, even though they were outgunned, tracked the smugglers and the outlaws until they quickly fled back into Mex-

ico after the initial standoff. These outlaws left behind nearly a ton of their own vehicles ablaze. Mexican officials are denying that these men were members of the Mexican army, claiming it is quite easy to buy Mexican military uniforms in local stores. But, of course, Mr. Speaker, we do not know the truth about that statement.

This incident is not the first either. In November the U.S. border patrol chased criminals in a dump truck full of marijuana in the same area until it got stuck in the Rio Grande River on its way back to Mexico. As Border Patrol agents sought to unload the three tons of marijuana from the truck, the driver, who had initially fled, returned with an army of heavily armed men wearing, yes, that is correct, Mexican military uniforms carrying military-style weapons. The army of thugs backed the agents away and then bulldozed their own truck back into Mexico, this safe haven for drug dealers.

And the war for the border is not just taking place above ground. This month in California officials have stumbled upon four underground tunnels that lead from Mexico into the United States. Just last Thursday authorities spent the day removing an estimated two tons of marijuana from a tunnel that began inside a warehouse in Tijuana, Mexico near their airport and ended up in a vacant industrial building on the American side. The 2,400-foot tunnel was about 5 feet wide and high enough for an adult to stand. The floor was cement and there was electricity and ventilation. Customs officials have described the tunnel as longer and much more massive than the other smuggling tunnels discovered since September 11, 2001.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue of national security. If these drug cartels are so boldly bringing drugs across our borders through these tunnels, what is to prevent them from using these same tunnels to smuggle terrorists and humans as well? We cannot ignore this issue.

In early January, Customs and Border Protection border patrol agents of Brewster County, Texas seized over \$2 million worth of cocaine from three Mexican nationals carrying the drugs in backpacks into the United States. These narcoterrorists make money because of the lack of border security in the United States. And, Mr. Speaker, these drug dealers are serious. Federal officials have recently warned U.S. border patrol agents that they could be the targets of assassins hired by immigrant smugglers. According to a memo from Homeland Security, "Unidentified Mexican alien smugglers are angry about the border security along the U.S.-Mexico border and have agreed that the best way to deal with U.S. border patrol agents is to hire a group of contract killers." Well, it is time for us to get angry as well and come up with the best way to deal with them.

We are fighting a serious insurgency along our borders, and we must stop