

On April 4, 1968, Mrs. King learned of her husband's assassination through a telephone call from Reverend Jesse Jackson. While supporting a sanitation workers' strike, Dr. King was shot on a Memphis motel balcony. In her autobiography, *My Life with Martin Luther King Jr.*, Mrs. King recalled, "Because his task was not finished, I felt that I must rededicate myself to the completion of his work." Indeed, she was compelled to fully immerse herself in the nonviolent civil rights movement that her husband led. Many wives become spokespersons for their husband's causes, yet Coretta Scott King was unique; an ardent activist in the fight against injustice, Mrs. King brought a new energy to the civil rights movement. Giving hundreds of speeches and leading countless marches, Mrs. King overcame the challenges of widowhood and witnessed the successes of the civil rights movement and her husband's unfulfilled dreams.

Neverending in her commitment to justice, Mrs. King was appointed by President Carter to the United Nations General Assembly, where she devoted herself to the development of Third World nations. She joined the fight to end apartheid and lobbied the U.S. Congress for sanctions against South Africa. Mrs. King also coordinated a 15-year campaign to keep her husband's memory alive, culminating in 1983 with the passage of legislation introduced by Congressman JOHN CONYERS and Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm to commemorate her husband's work with a federal holiday. Dr. and Mrs. King have been succeeded by their four children who have each followed in their parents' footsteps, carrying with them strong hearts, minds and voices in pursuit of justice and peace.

Two years ago, I was invited to join a civil rights pilgrimage to Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma, Alabama. The journey was a remarkable experience. Led by Congressman JOHN LEWIS, a number of my colleagues in the House and the Senate and I visited the sites of many of the civil rights struggles, including the Kings' own Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. We experienced these places with some of the activists that led the movement and relived the moments through their eyes. To hear them share their account of the very church we were sitting in being attacked by a mob of segregationists was extraordinary.

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 what are we doing now to advance the cause of justice and equality. In 1960s Alabama, Coretta Scott King and Martin Luther King, Jr., battled overt bigotry. Today, we arm ourselves against silent intolerance. While we must look to our past and consider how far we have come, we must keep an eye toward 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, Coretta Scott King was a major reason that our Nation advanced from the backward ways of segregation. Her passing is a tremendous loss for all of America.

Mrs. King was a civil rights hero—she was active in the cause before she married the great Dr. Martin Luther King, and she helped shape the movement as his wife, and later, his widow.

As my friend and colleague, the great champion of civil rights John Lewis, said yesterday, "She was more than the devoted wife of a great minister . . . she was a leader in her own right."

With dignity and with strength, Mrs. King helped lead the civil rights movement for decades. For many, she was the face of the movement.

We are saddened by the loss of a great American and we are so thankful for her life. As Black History Month begins today, I hope we will all use this month and beyond to honor Mrs. King, her husband and all of our civil rights heroes, and to live their message of peace and equality, everyday of our lives.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 1, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Coretta Scott King was a radiant symbol of the best that the American South and this nation have to offer. She was beautiful, charming, graceful and dignified. She was a shining light who had the ability to brighten the dark places, to bring hope where there was hopelessness.

I first met her in 1957 when I was a 17-year-old student in Nashville. She was traveling around America, especially in the South, telling the story of the Civil Rights Movement through song. I will never forget it. She looked like an opera star standing on stage. She wore a lovely pearl-white dress with layers of cascading ruffles falling gently around her. She would sing a little and then talk a little, and through her singing and talks she inspired an entire generation.

She was more than the widow of Martin Luther King, Jr. She was a leader in her own right. She was the glue that held the Civil Rights Movement together and the strength that sustained one of the most charismatic leaders of our time. Long before she married Dr. King, she was an activist for non-violence, traveling to a conference in Europe with Women Strike for Peace to discuss the dangers of atmospheric nuclear testing.

Though she tasted the bitter fruits of segregation and racial discrimination, Coretta

Scott King was prepared for a privileged life. She was well-educated and married a gifted minister from a prominent family. Just like any other mother she wanted to raise her four children in peace. But when an opportunity came for her to actualize the philosophy of non-violent change, she did not ignore her convictions.

Along with her husband and the more than 50 thousand black people of Montgomery, she responded to the courage of Rosa Parks, who on December 1, 1955, refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Alabama. That simple act launched the modern-day Civil Rights Movement and changed Coretta King's life forever.

Her commitment to non-violence led her to trade her privilege to live under the constant threat of brutality. Her home was bombed, her husband was repeatedly jailed, people she knew were killed, her husband's life was always in jeopardy. And finally one day he was assassinated by a gunman's bullet.

She did not become bitter or hostile. She did not hide in some dark corner, but she drew on her faith in the transformative power of peace. And a few days after the assassination, she led striking workers through the streets of Memphis. All the days of her life, she would travel throughout the South, America, and the world urging respect for the dignity of humanity.

She went all out to create a living memorial to her husband called the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change, one of the most visited landmarks in Atlanta. She met with President Reagan, who was not inclined to sign the legislation, but in the end he could not deny her. She used her prominence to mobilize the American people and built a bipartisan coalition in Congress to make her husband's birthday a national holiday. Because of her efforts, generations yet unborn will learn his message of peace, and they will hear about his struggle for equal justice in America.

I loved Coretta Scott King. She was so warm, so genuine, so caring. For 20 years, she always sent me a card or a book on my birthday. I will cherish those mementos always.

I will remember Coretta Scott King as a dear friend. But the historians will remember her as one of the founding mothers of the new America, for through her noble acts, she helped liberate us all. This nation is a better nation, and we are a better people because she passed this way. However, she was not only a citizen of America, she was a citizen of the world, a world still yearning to build the Beloved Community, a world still yearning to make peace with itself. Above all, Coretta Scott King personified the beautiful, peaceful soul of a non-violent movement that still has the power to transform America, that still has the power to change the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROSE NADER

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 7, 2006*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Rose Nader, who at age 99 died on Tuesday, January 24, 2006, of congestive