## A SALUTE TO HAM RADIO OPERATORS

### HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2006*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of American citizens who are members of the Amateur Radio Relay League, known as HAM radio operators. Citizens throughout America dedicated to this hobby—a hobby that some people consider old fashioned or obsolete—were true heroes in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina as they were often the only line of communication available into the storm ravaged areas.

Amateur radio operators are often overlooked in favor of flashier means of communication. As communities across the gulf coast and America learned this year, technology can be highly vulnerable. HAM radios, entirely self-contained transmitters, require no cell towers or satellites, simply a battery and a strip of wire as an antenna.

Just as after major earthquakes, tornadoes, and the terrorist attacks of 9/11, HAM operators around the country received an alert to stand by their radios to listen for calls for assistance. Following Hurricane Katrina, when cell phones and e-mail were useless, a HAM operator located in Connecticut alerted authorities about a woman trapped for 4 days without food or water and a Coast Guard Auxiliary in Cleveland arranged for a medevac for a woman in labor in New Orleans. These are just a few examples of the many lives that were saved with the critical intervention of HAM operators throughout the country.

Now more than ever, I am proud to be a licensed amateur radio operator. It is important to realize that every HAM radio operator in the Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a volunteer. This year, when disaster struck, hundreds of HAMs moved to the gulf coast to help in every way they could. Every one of which did so on a volunteer basis and their only goal was to assist in what became one of the worst natural disasters in America.

The dedication displayed by HAM radio operators in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina sets a tremendous example for us all. The people whose lives were rescued as a result of the tireless dedication of HAM radio operators will forever be grateful to these selfless public servants.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Coretta Scott King, who, sadly, passed away last week at the age of 78.

Mrs. King will be greatly missed and fondly remembered as a remarkable woman who passionately worked with her husband, Martin Luther King, Jr., in America's nonviolent struggle for equal rights and who pursued the vision of equality and justice long after his tragic death in 1968. While I and constituents throughout my district, including those in Richmond, California, mourn her loss we remember her achievements, her courage, and what she symbolized to people across the country and throughout the world.

While she was Dr. King's partner in the struggle for equal rights, Coretta Scott King was also a civil rights activist in her own right. Dr. King once said, "I wish I could say . . . that I led her down this path. But I must say we went down it together, because she was as actively involved and concerned when we met as she is now."

An inspirational woman to so many already, Mrs. King will remain a role model for generations to come.

When her husband's fight for equality was cut short by the brutal shot of bigotry and hatred, Mrs. King's fight had only just begun. And now with her death, we face the same question she faced so many years ago. President Clinton eloquently spoke about this question yesterday at Mrs. King's funeral service in Atlanta when he said,

> . . . the most important day in her life for everyone of us here at this moment in this church, except when she embraced her faith, the next most important day was April 5, 1968, the day after her husband was killed. She had to decide, "What am I going to do with the rest of my life?" We would have all forgiven her, even honored her if she said, "I have stumbled on enough stony roads. I have been beaten by enough bitter rods. I have endured enough dangers, toils and snares. I'm going home and raising my kids. I wish you all well." None of us, nobody could have condemned that decision. But instead, she went to Memphis—the scene of the worst nightmare of her life—and led that march for those poor hard-working garbage workers that her husband [advocated for]. Now, that's the most important thing for us. Because what really matters if you believe all this stuff we've been saying is, "What are we going to do with the rest of our lives?"

Indeed, she went on to work so hard for all of us. In addition to her efforts to build the Martin Luther King memorial in Atlanta to establishing a national holiday in her husband's memory, Coretta Scott King worked tirelessly so that her husband's struggle, and the struggle of the millions of Americans who worked with him and shared his vision to bring equality to all people, was never forgotten.

She took upon herself the responsibility of keeping alive Dr. King's civil rights legacy but also found her own causes. She advocated equality for all. She became active with the National Organization for Women and said, "Women, if the soul of the Nation is to be saved, I believe that you must become its soul." In 2000 she spoke at a fundraiser sponsored by the Metropolitan Community Church, a predominantly gay denomination in San Francisco, where she gave a powerful speech expressing that "until everybody has equality; no one has equality. We can't just be for civil rights of one group."

The King family has a strong history with the community in Richmond, CA.

Mrs. King's speech in San Francisco inspired Jerrold Hatchett of Richmond to form the National Brotherhood Alliance, a non-profit organization that serves as a collaborative of business, community, religious, and grassroots organizations to mentor youth and address community issues.

Richmond Mayor Irma Anderson remembers attending Union Methodist Church in Boston with the Kings. Her husband, Rev. Booker T. Anderson, who went on to become a Richmond city councilman, attended Boston University School of Theology with Dr. King. Their relationship was one of the reasons Dr. King stopped in Richmond to meet with local leaders when he visited northern California in 1961. Mayor Anderson remembers Mrs. King as being loyal to her husband and family and supportive of the civil rights movement, and she had a beautiful singing voice.

Mayor Anderson said that, "Mrs. King's singing voice changed after her husband was murdered." It, however, did not alter her passion for justice and she continued her struggles against injustice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents, I rise to acknowledge the loss of a great woman, a mother, a friend to all and a hero. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the King family and their friends in this difficult time.

America owes the entire King family an enormous debt of gratitude for teaching all Americans the meaning of dignity, patriotism and justice. This Congress, and this nation, must not let down Dr. King down. We must not let Mrs. King down. We must pursue their vision of justice and freedom as vigilantly today as ever before and preserve the greatness of America for our children and our children's children.

## HONORING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. CORETTA SCOTT KING

SPEECH OF

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 31, 2006*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 655, honoring the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. It is with great respect and a heavy heart that I pay tribute to the life of a woman admired by so many Americans.

On January 31, 2006, God summoned home one of His most dedicated activists in the fight for equal rights and social justice. It seems like only yesterday that Mrs. King joined her husband, the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., to fight for equality for all Americans.

While the country mourned the loss of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mrs. King picked up the torch and continued the fight for social justice, at the same time caring for their four children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott, and Bernie Albertine. In doing so, she worked tirelessly on multi-national disarmament treaties, anti-poverty efforts in the U.S., and opposition to apartheid in South Africa. Later, in 1985, she initiated the creation of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute to ensure that future generations of leaders carry on Rev. King's dream of peace and social justice. It is fitting that we honor her today not far from where she led several hundred-thousand people to commemorate her husband's historic march on our Nation's Capital.

Because of the Reverend and Mrs. King's hard work and many sacrifices throughout the