

History would later call these brave Americans the "Little Rock Nine."

Inspired by Rosa Parks, Carlotta had the desire to get the best education available, Carlotta enrolled at Michigan State University. She attended Michigan State for 2 years before moving with her family to Denver. In 1968, she earned a B.S. from Colorado State College (now the University of Northern Colorado) and began working at the YWCA as a program administrator for teens.

Carlotta was awarded the prestigious Spingarn Medal by the NAACP in 1958. She has been a member of the Colorado Aids Project, Jack and Jill of America, the Urban League and the NAACP, as well as the president of the Little Rock Nine Foundation, a scholarship organization dedicated to ensuring equal access to education for African Americans. She has also served as a trustee for the Iliiff School of Theology. In 1999 at the White House, members of Congress and the President bestowed upon Carlotta and the other members of the Little Rock Nine the nation's highest civilian award, the Congressional Gold Medal, for their sacrifice and contribution to the cause of equality.

Mr. Speaker, Carlotta Wells LaNier continues to spread her influence by speaking today, to the students of Cornerstone Christian Academy in Henderson, Nevada, as part of a Black History Month Celebration. I am honored to recognize this great woman.

TRIBUTE TO THE DELAWARE RIVER POWER SQUADRON

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Delaware River Power Squadron on the occasion of its 90th anniversary.

Delaware River Power Squadron is dedicated to boating safety through education and civic activities in several locations in Philadelphia while also serving the boating public throughout southern Pennsylvania, the Delaware River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

First organized in 1915, it was not until May of 1916 that the Delaware River Power Squadron was formally recognized as a unit. Since then members of the Delaware River Power Squadron have formed an additional 20 squadrons in the District 5 region of United States Power Squadrons including eastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Delaware River Power Squadron has worked with the armed forces of the United States in time of war to provide training materials and patrol teams, and continues to work in partnership with government agencies such as the Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Ocean Service, the National Safe Boating Council, and others to provide safe boating education, reliable waterway charts, vessel safety examinations, environmental support, and homeland security.

Delaware River Power Squadron is a constituent of the United States Power Squadron, which is comprised of over 49,000 members in

448 squadrons and divided geographically into 33 districts. Membership is open to all interested persons 18 and older without regard to race, religion, gender, or any other characteristic protected by the non-discrimination laws of the United States.

I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the Delaware River Power Squadron for the past 90 years of service and dedicated commitment to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 5, H.R. 670 and rollcall No. 6, H.R. 657 on February 8, 2006, had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

THE FACE OF POVERTY IN AMERICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the devastation of Hurricane Katrina exposed what America did not want to see. Beyond the tragedy of this natural disaster, Katrina shined a spotlight on America's poor and disadvantaged. The convenience of disregarding the plight of the poor came to an abrupt halt as a result of Katrina and its aftermath. Katrina pulled the cover off of what prior reports by the U.S. Census Bureau found, which stated for the past four years, the poverty rate has steadily increased; which is a reverse trend from 1993 to 2000.

Katrina also exposed the gross disparities relating to poverty in America. According to the Census Bureau 2004 report, the Black poverty rate of 24.7 percent is almost twice that of the general population. This translates to about 9.4 million African Americans, almost one in-four living below the poverty line. Consequently, those affected by the Katrina devastation were disproportionately Black and poor. Despite the rhetoric of conservative pundits who claim that poverty in the Black community is due to irresponsibility, statistics show that individuals living below the poverty line are hard working citizens who go to work every day. It should be underscored that poverty is a result of a lack of income. Americans fall into poverty simply because they do not have enough financial resources. So it is plausible that even when people are working in the market place they can still fall into poverty. Statistics show that one-in-ten African Americans above 16 who were poor worked full-time jobs.

Furthermore, 37 million Americans are living in poverty. Statistics in 2004 indicate that 13 million American children lived below the poverty line, translating into three-in-seventeen. This was an increase of roughly 200,000 from 2003, which means 3,000 children were falling into poverty each week. Moreover, African American children under the age of 18 consist of 43 percent of all poor African Americans.

Senior citizens, those 65 and older, have a poverty rate of 23.8 percent. In comparison with other counterparts, statistics show that more African Americans and Hispanics are in poverty at a higher rate than whites and other racial classifications. African American children represent 17 percent of American children, but they make up 31 percent of all poor children in America.

Conservatives are quick to attribute poverty to dysfunctional family structures. However, renowned economist such as William Springs suggests that this is a gross over simplification. He contends that poverty is the "result of economy-wide forces and public policy." Mr. Speaker, I share this analysis, hence, it places the onus on policy makers to enact legislation centered on relieving the burden poverty. After the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 the Black poverty rate decreased to 32.2 percent. During the years of 1993 to 2000 which were marked by strong fiscal policy the poverty rate for African Americans dropped annually.

Katrina exposed America's weakness, not only in the Federal Government's delinquent response, but also relative to our inability to address poverty particularly in the minority community. As we consider the 2007 fiscal budget, we must see the opportunity to provide provisions that alleviate poverty in the Gulf Coast and urban communities across the Nation. Tax cuts for the wealthy and the slashing of social programs will not suffice.

Mr. Speaker, a recent article in the "The Crisis", entitled Poverty in America: The Poor are getting Poorer, by William E. Spriggs captures the statistical data and reports that highlight the issue of poverty in America, especially the disparities as to race.

HONORING KJELL BERGH ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Kjell Bergh on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Mr. Bergh is a respected Minnesota business leader and a true citizen of the world, working extensively with civic and business organizations and governments around the globe. Mr. Bergh will be celebrating his birthday with his family and friends in Minnesota on February 18.

Born in Kristiansund, Norway, Mr. Bergh was educated at the University of Oslo and Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, earning his B.A. in International Relations there in 1970. In 2004, Mr. Bergh received his masters degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

Mr. Bergh is well known as the owner of several major automotive dealerships in Minnesota. In addition, he owns travel agencies specializing in tours and adventure travel in Scandinavia and Africa. Along with his business connections, he has fostered an impressive commitment to our community here in Minnesota, earning numerous awards for his work and serving on many boards of prominent businesses, academic institutions and non-profit organizations. His international links