HONORING PROFESSOR NELLIE McKAY
OF WISCONSIN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and work of Professor Nellie McKay of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At the time of her death, Professor McKay was known world-wide as one of the most distinguished scholars of African-American literature.

Nellie McKay was the daughter of immigrants who sought for her the education and advancement that was denied them. She realized all their dreams and more. After earning her doctorate in English and American literature from Harvard and teaching in Boston, Professor McKay, to the dismay of many of her friends, moved to the midwestern city of Madison. Craig Werner, the current chairman of the UW-Madison Afro-American studies department said, "When she came here, there was not a single university that was paying any attention to black women's literature. Now, there isn't a single university that isn't."

Professor McKay chaired the Afro-American studies department at Madison and helped turn it into the nationally recognized program that it is today. She co-edited, with Henry Louis Gates, Jr., The Norton Anthology of African American Literature, a groundbreaking work that remains a cornerstone of the genre.

Professor McKay's scholarship (more than 60 books, articles, and essays) was matched by her commitment to her students, both in and out of the classroom. She is remembered fondly as a teacher who challenged her students academically and challenged her colleagues to make the university a more welcoming place for all people. By all accounts, she succeeded at both. But she would be the first to say that her work is ongoing, to be continued, now, by others.

Nellie McKay did the unthinkable — sacrificing a department chair at Harvard, and its attendant fame, to continue living and working in Madison. We are grateful for her sacrifice and so much richer for it.

With the passing of Nellie McKay, the world has lost a great scholar and Wisconsin has lost a great teacher, citizen, and friend.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF NEWSTALK RADIO 1370 WCOA

HON. JEFF MILLER
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the 80th Anniversary of NewsTalk Radio 1370 WCOA.

On February 3, 1926, WCOA aired as Pensacola's first radio station. Ever since, Pensacola has been proud to call WCOA one of her own.

Beginning with John E. Frenkel, Sr., who originally came up with the call letters WCOA, or "Wonderful City of Advantages", for generations, its radio personalities have entertained the Gulf Coast. Along the journey, WCOA gave us Don Priest, Ted Cassidy, Sally Henderson, along with so many others. It is no wonder why, with a current broadcast team made up of Luke McCoy, Don Worley, Jim Roberts, and Bryan Newkirk, many Northwest Floridians can be found tuning into 1370 daily. This station earned the respect and loyalty of its listeners.

After broadcasting music for many years, in 1991 the station turned to an all news/talk format. While WCOA broadcasts programs that feature prominent national radio personalities, such as, Rush Limbaugh and Bill O'Reilly, it is proud to be home to many local shows, including Pensacola Speaks, one of the longest running call-in shows in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize the 80th Anniversary of NewsTalk Radio 1370 WCOA and its service to the communities of Northwest Florida.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO RESTRAIN FEDERAL COURTS FROM INTERFERING IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES AND TO PROTECT THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND CONSCIENCE OF STATE LEGISLATORS

HON. MICHAEL E. SODREL
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. SODREL. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to address a problem in Indiana that has spread across the nation. A federal court in Indiana has imposed itself on the independence of state legislatures. A federal district court judge, David Hamilton, in the case of Hinrichs v. Bosma, has ruled that when the Indiana State Legislature and the legislators themselves, must not make any reference to Jesus Christ or to the Christian religion. This decision goes beyond freedom of religion, to threaten freedom of speech, and imperils the foundation principles of our representative republic. If federal courts can regulate any speech of the members of a legislative body, then those courts can regulate all speech.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees to each state a representative form of government, and it is Congress' duty to enforce this guarantee. This decision by Judge Hamilton is an unprecedented intrusion of federal courts on the independence of a state legislative body. The courts are now going beyond interpreting laws, and have begun inserting themselves in the legislative process. Hundreds of years of precedent argue against this court decision. It violates the principles of separation of legislature, executive, and judicial powers, and separate sovereignty between state and federal power. Judge Hamilton's court is assuming to dictate what state legislators may or may not say, and decide how they should represent their constituents.

To protect the speech, conscience, and independence of legislators from unelected and unaccountable judges serving for life, I am introducing a bill to do the following: remove the most injurious content of speech in the legislature from the jurisdiction of federal courts; provide immunity for the content of speech during a legislative session by a legislator or lawfully invited guests, excluding witnesses, unless such speech constituted treason, an admission of a crime, or a breach of the peace; prohibit the use of federal funds to enforce this or similar decisions; and prohibit the use of fines against the state as a body in order to enforce such a decision.

It is vital to representative government to preserve the ability of state legislators to represent their constituents as their consciences provide through the power of free speech. I ask the Congress to act to stop this cancer on the legislative power.

HEROIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS ABOARD USS "HOUSTON" WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN

HON. TED POE
OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker. The USS Houston, a 9050-ton Northampton class light cruiser, was built in Newport News, Virginia. Named for the great city of Houston, she was commissioned in June 1930 and reclassified as a heavy cruiser a year later. She played a crucial role in World War II and became a flagship of the U.S. Fleet.

For 10 years, she served around the world on various missions and even transported President Roosevelt on certain occasions. But, in November 1940, as WWII deepened she returned to the Philippines for her second deployment as Asiatic Fleet flagship. A year later, she was sent south to Australian and Netherlands East Indies waters. As the heaviest unit of the Allied naval force in that area, she was actively employed in the desperate struggle against the Japanese East Indies' offensive.

The USS Houston was ordered to leave the area on February 28, 1942. Along with the Australian light cruiser Perth, the USS Houston encountered a strong Japanese navy force supporting an amphibious landing on western Java. On March 1, 1942, in a courageous night battle against all odds, Houston and her crew were sunk by enemy gunfire and torpedoes.

Six hundred and ninety two U.S. Soldiers and Marines, 2/3 of the crew, including the Captain, perished that evening. The remaining 388 surviving crewmen were captured by the Japanese Imperial Navy. They became known as the "Lost Battalion."

Houston's fate was not known by the world for almost 9 months, and the full story of her brave plight was not fully told until after the war was over and her survivors were liberated from prison camps.

Next Saturday in my home state of Texas, survivors, their families, friends and representatives of the Naval Order of the U.S. and several foreign nations will converge at the USS