

HONORING DR. GILBERT R.
MASON, ACTIVIST AND PHYSICIAN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of an African-American unsung hero, Dr. Gilbert R. Mason, a civil rights activist and family physician, who made waves on the Mississippi Gulf Coast to eliminate racial discrimination in the state.

Dr. Mason was born in Jackson, MS, on October 7, 1928. He earned his B.S. degree from Tennessee State University in 1949 and his M.D. from Howard University Medical School in 1954. In 1955, Dr. Mason moved to Biloxi, MS, where he started his family practice and shortly thereafter began to challenge racial boundaries. He contested and protested the "whites only" section of Federally funded Gulf Coast beaches by leading a nonviolent "wade in".

Jim Crow laws and intimidation tactics hindered and denied blacks the right to beaches, hotels, schools, restaurants, and jobs that whites enjoyed. Dr. Mason confronted racial injustices, and his commitment to civil rights spearheaded a movement in one of the first areas of the Magnolia State to see organized direct action. On April 17, 1960, Dr. Mason took a solitary swim at the "whites only" beach and was arrested. Hearing of his arrest, the following Sunday, student volunteers were outraged and joined in the "wade in". Dr. Mason and others were met by Klansmen and angry mobs that attacked them with chains, iron pipes and whatever else they could grab while burning wooden crosses. The "wade-ins" eventually led to one of the bloodiest riots in Mississippi's history.

Dr. Mason successfully filed the first anti-discrimination lawsuit against the State of Mississippi and school desegregation lawsuit in the history of Biloxi.

Dr. Gilbert R. Mason collaborated with the Mississippi NAACP to create a stance for civil rights partnering with CORE, SNCC, and SCLC. Dr. Mason worked closely with Medgar Evers, NAACP field secretary until he was gunned down in front of his home in 1963, fighting racial discrimination and championing equality for all mankind.

In 1970, he became the first African American to be admitted to the Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians. In 1992, he helped Harrison County elect its first African American and female supervisor. In 1998, he published a book detailing the struggle in, "Beaches, Blood and Ballots: A Black Doctor's Civil Rights Struggles".

The wave Dr. Gilbert Mason began on the coast of Mississippi will never be forgotten. Please join me today in honoring a true civil rights pioneer, Dr. Gilbert R. Mason.

DEEP OCEAN ENERGY RESOURCES
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4761) to provide for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources on the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to the Deep Ocean Energy Resources Act (H.R. 4761). The "DOER" Act is yet another lost opportunity to develop real solutions to our energy challenges and a reckless raid on the Federal Treasury that even the Bush Administration opposes.

The DOER Act will repeal a 25-year, bipartisan moratorium on oil and gas drilling off most of the U.S. coastline. In place of the moratorium, a weak system of protections will be established that allows individual states to sanction drilling within 100 miles of their shores. To entice states to permit drilling, the bill increases states' share of drilling royalties from the current ceiling of 27 percent to 64 percent.

Bush administration officials released a statement today strongly opposing the revenue-sharing provisions of the bill, which are expected to add several hundred billion dollars to the federal deficit over the next 60 years. The diversion of more drilling royalties to states is a transparent, irresponsible ploy that will cost the government billions. But Republican leaders are so unconcerned about runaway federal deficits they decided to waive the rules of the Congressional Budget Act that are supposed to protect taxpayers from deficit spending.

While the bill's proponents argue this revenue-sharing arrangement is a matter of states' rights, the language of H.R. 4761 actually gives the administration enormous new powers over states. The bill limits states' ability to block pipeline construction and to review oil drilling activities once drilling is allowed. H.R. 4761 also allows the Secretary of the Interior to threaten states with a loss of funding if Congress passes legislation restricting oil drilling in any way. And, by rolling back environmental reviews and mitigation responsibilities for oil companies, the bill imposes hidden costs on states and their tourism industries, which will be left with the tab for drilling-related mishaps.

The Republicans declared this week "Energy Week" in the House and then moved one bill, H.R. 4761 to the floor. This legislation, apparently the Republicans' solution to America's complex energy challenges, includes no new incentives for energy conservation, no increases in fuel efficiency, no new support for mass transit and no boost for home-grown renewable energy technologies such as biofuels or wind energy. This bill falls far short of the bold, comprehensive energy policy America so urgently needs. Only House Republican leaders could call a bill that balloons the federal deficit, undermines states' rights, rolls back environmental protections and fails to reduce demand for fossil fuels a "commonsense com-

promise." It's time to hold a funeral for common sense.

WORLD PEACE THROUGH WORLD
LAW

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 11, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable man, Mr. Louis B. Sohn passionate supporter of the United Nations, Mr. Sohn has made a significant mark on both our country and the world. On June 7 at his home in Falls Church, Virginia, we lost Mr. Sohn to complications of a stroke. He was 92 years old.

Born March 1, 1914, right at the start of World War I, in Lwow, Poland, Louis showed tremendous passion right from the beginning. He earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from John Casimir University. A mere two weeks before the invasion of Poland during World War II, a Harvard law professor who had been impressed by Mr. Sohn's treatises, invited him to be a research fellow at Harvard School of Law. Soon after his arrival, he met Betty Mayo, who became his wife and is now his only survivor.

Serving as an assistant to Manley O. Hudson, a Harvard Law professor and a judge on the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague, Mr. Sohn traveled to San Francisco for the United Nations charter conference. With his help, the International Court of Justice was established. Then when Mr. Hudson retired as the Bemis Professor of International Law at Harvard, Louis Sohn was awarded the honor.

Professor Sohn was well known for his book "World Peace Through World Law," which he co-authored with Grenville Clark, a prominent Wall Street attorney. Their book delved into various proposals to transform the U.N. into a world government.

Throughout his 50 year career in the field of law, which culminated at the University of Georgia School of Law, Professor Sohn was a champion for disarmament and the creation of a permanent U.N. peace force. He hoped that through such a peace force, the U.N. could use their military budget alternatively to relieve poverty. Mr. Sohn commendably spent his life working hard for a more powerful United Nations.

I enter into the RECORD an article published in the New York Times on June 23, 2006 titled "Louis B. Sohn, Passionate Supporter of the U.N., Dies at 92." The article provides a more in depth commentary of Professor Sohn's esteemed accomplishments. He is a truly remarkable man who has left an everlasting imprint on society. We must keep his legacy alive and continue to fight for disarmament and human rights.

[From the New York Times, June 23, 2006]

LOUIS B. SOHN, PASSIONATE SUPPORTER OF
THE U.N., DIES AT 92

(By Dennis Hevesi)

Louis B. Sohn, a professor of international law who helped draft parts of the United Nations Charter in 1945 and was a leader in subsequent efforts to turn the United Nations into a true world government, died on June 7 at his home in Falls Church, Va. He was 92.