

In 1973, when Vice President Spiro Agnew resigned, President Richard Nixon nominated then Congressman Ford to assume the vice presidency. President Ford's nomination was quickly approved by both the House and the Senate. However, his time as Vice President was brief and the attention of the country was focused on the looming Watergate scandal. On August 9, 1974, President Nixon stepped down and President Ford assumed the position of Commander-in-Chief.

As our nation's president, Ford was faced with the critical task of regaining the trust of a country that had lost confidence in its top leadership. In order to begin to restore transparency and integrity to the office of the President, he traveled around the country listening and talking to the people of this country. President Ford felt the way in which he could help the country to begin to move beyond the wounds of Watergate was to grant a full and unconditional pardon to President Nixon. President Gerald Ford put the needs of our nation before his own vulnerability to political fallout, and that is the mark of a great leader.

On behalf of the families of Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District, we extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to Mrs. Betty Ford, her children and all of the family and friends of President Ford. President Gerald Ford was a loving husband and father and a devoted public servant. He will be remembered and honored in the highest regard.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of President Gerald Ford.

HONORING THE CITY OF AKRON
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
DAY OF SERVICE

HON. BETTY SUTTON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Ms. SUTTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Akron and the 22nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture which will be held at the Akron-Summit County Main Library. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Akron-Summit County Public Library and the Eta Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Inc.

Ozell Sutton will deliver the annual lecture. Civil rights and human rights are Sutton's passions. He served as an escort for the Little Rock Nine when they entered Central High School in Arizona in 1957. He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Washington in 1963 and in Selma, Alabama, in 1965. He was in Memphis when King was killed in 1968. Mr. Sutton has been cited four times by Ebony magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential African-American Leaders."

All Americans know of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s stature as a national hero and we all look up to Dr. King's ideals of freedom, justice and opportunity. From his celebrated "Letter from Birmingham Jail" to his organization of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, Dr. King demonstrated that eloquent words followed with significant action could affect social change without resorting to violence. His "I Have a Dream" speech movingly spelled out his dream of racial equality and propelled the issue to the forefront of national consciousness.

The City of Akron, which has a very rich history, is the seat of Summit County in the State of Ohio. The city is located between Cleveland to the north and Canton to the south. It was founded in 1825 near the Ohio & Erie Canal and became a manufacturing center owing to its location at a staircase of locks. The locks were needed due to the higher elevation of the area, which gave rise to the name Summit County as well as Akron, which is a rough translation of "summit" into Greek.

The city is home to the University of Akron, the Akron Aeros "AA" affiliate of the Cleveland Indians, and the Firestone Country Club, at which the PGA Tour's Bridgestone Invitational is annually played. Akron is often referred to as "The Rubber City," being the home of both Goodyear and Firestone. The city is also home to the All-American Soap Box Derby which has been held at Akron's Derby Downs race track since 1935.

In closing, I once again pay tribute to the City of Akron and the 22nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR
ANDREW YOUNG

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ambassador Andrew Young, a man who has given his life to the Civil Rights movement and other important social causes. Truly, he is a man who consistently puts the interests of others above himself.

Ambassador Young, who was born in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1932 to a dentist father and schoolteacher mother, grew up in the segregated South. After beginning his college education at Dillard University in New Orleans, he transferred to Howard University in Washington, DC.

In 1951 Ambassador Young graduated from Howard with a degree in pre-medicine. Instead of medical school, however, he heeded a call to the ministry and began his studies in theology at Hartford Seminary in Connecticut.

Graduating in 1955, Ambassador Young became the pastor at several small churches in the South, including one in Thomasville, Ga., in my own district. He also served as pastor at a church in Marion, Alabama. As part of his work there, while encouraging young people to vote, he first came in contact with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The relationship would last for the rest of Ambassador Young's life, carrying over into civil rights activities all over the South, including the Albany Movement in 1961-62. At that time, the small town of 56,000 people had gained a reputation as not just resistant to social activists, but impenetrable to change. White leadership in the town refused to have conversations with local leaders seeking to implement the decision of *Boynton v. Virginia*, which mandated the integration of bus and rail terminals.

Albany, as it turned out, was also one of the first places Ambassador Young made a difference. In late 1961, Dr. King, Reverend Ralph Abernathy and some 2,000 other demonstrators had already been jailed for their in-

tegration efforts. Nevertheless, Ambassador Young saw fit to go to Albany to help recruit and train people for citizen education workshops, with the aim of keeping the fire burning in Albany. The environment was dangerous, tenuous, and hostile, but Ambassador Young found a way to inspire and contribute.

Forty-five years later, we not only honor him, but also reflect on how the courage exhibited by him then led to the great accomplishments he is known for today: Georgia's first African American Congressman since Reconstruction, U.N. Ambassador, Mayor of Atlanta, among others. Ambassador Young has led a full and meaningful life, exhibiting a sense of public service and commitment to community the whole time.

Today, we thank and honor Ambassador Young for his contributions and the example he set for others.

IN SUPPORT OF MEANINGFUL, AFFORDABLE AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of prescription drug coverage for our nation's seniors. While I believe that the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 was flawed in many ways, I am glad that we have recognized the need for prescription drug coverage for Medicare recipients. Too many families have been unable to afford life sustaining medications, and it is encouraging that the Congress has seen fit to begin to address this grave problem.

While there have been many legitimate concerns about the implementation of the MMA, I am encouraged that in this Congress, we will have the opportunity to improve on that original legislation. It is extremely important that seniors receive affordable prescription coverage. In addition to problems of affordability, we have heard many seniors report that the enrollment process is needlessly difficult to navigate. Along with the problems negotiating the paperwork, many seniors are faced with penalties for failing to meet specified deadlines. We must work to ensure that this process is as "user friendly" as possible, and that all eligible seniors are receiving the coverage they need.

Madam Speaker, I call for the enrollment process to be streamlined so that it is easier for beneficiaries to enroll without the confusion seniors experienced in 2006. The Bush Administration should do a better job informing seniors in clear terms about which plans are available to which enrollees.

I urge my colleagues to eliminate the current penalty for not signing up for a Part D plan the first time a person is eligible. Due to the confusion during the 2006 sign up process, some seniors were not able to enroll in a Part D plan and now will face this penalty.

Pharmaceutical companies such as GlaxoSmithKline dedicate extensive resources to discovering lifesaving cures for devastating illnesses. I look forward to work with them, patient advocacy organizations, healthcare professionals and my fellow Members of Congress to ensure that every senior has access