

Scripture tells us, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Few things could better characterize the conduct of so many of our Nation's veterans.

The men and women who have worn the uniform of our country have been willing to place themselves in harm's way on our behalf. They have offered to lay down their lives for us. They have shown us the greatest love.

Not only have our veterans demonstrated the greatest love to us, they also have demonstrated a quality of character that should inspire us all.

How can we show them the same kind of commitment? By treating current service personnel well on the battlefield, making sure they have the equipment needed to get the job done well. We must make every benefit of technology and the full wealth of our Nation available to our military to ensure our soldiers, sailors, air personnel and Marines have what they need to do their jobs.

We need to treat them well when they return: We need to keep faith in providing them with the benefits they need to show our gratitude for their sacrifice.

And we need to treat those they love well: We need to care for the families of the fallen, their widows and orphaned children.

The measure before us "encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon employers, labor organizations, veterans' service organizations, and Federal, State, and local governmental agencies . . . to lend their support to increase employment of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States."

The ability of our veterans to contribute is not limited to their time in uniform. They are also men and women with specialized skills and bring exceptional training to the marketplace. Hiring a veteran is a sound economic investment.

Madam Speaker, that's something all Americans can support, and I look forward to voting for H. Con. Resolution 5, "expressing support for the designation and goals of 'Hire a Veteran Week' and encouraging the President to issue a proclamation supporting those goals," when it comes before the House.

CONGRATULATING BARRY
PATRICK RODGERS, BS, M.ED.

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Barry Rodgers on his appointment as principal of Northside College Preparatory High School in Chicago. The Northside school council voted unanimously to name Mr. Rodgers to a 4-year term as principal beginning on July 1, 2007, and they chose an outstanding successor to James Lalley, who is retiring on June 30, 2007.

Mr. Rodgers received his B.S. in zoology from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1990. He then went on to graduate from National Louis University, in 1999, with a master's degree in education specializing in curriculum and instruction, and he has continued

his education with a certificate in educational leadership from DePaul University in 2005.

Throughout his career, Mr. Rodgers has been an educator and a leader in a variety of venues. He began his career at Mather High School teaching biology and chemistry. He went on to become the department chairman at Mather High. He then joined the Northside science department, working his way up to department chairman there as well. Currently, Mr. Rodgers is the LAUNCH principal at Westinghouse Career Academy in Chicago assisting in the day-to-day operations of the school.

Mr. Rodgers has gone above and beyond in serving the interests of the students wherever he has taught. He founded the swim team at Northside High School, led the Curriculum Team, was a teacher-mentor for the Golden Teachers program, coordinated staff development opportunities for five area schools, and was a member of the leadership team at both Northside High and Westinghouse Academy.

In addition to coaching the swim team at Northside, he is also affiliated with the Association for Supervision and Curriculum development, the National Science Teachers Association, the Friends of the Chicago River, the National School Reform Faculty, the North River Commission, the American Chemical Society, and National Public Radio.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Barry Rodgers on his appointment as Northside College Preparatory High School's new principal, and I thank him for his many outstanding contributions in educating the young people of the Fifth District of Illinois. His efforts have had a profound impact on the lives of his friends, family, and countless other individuals. I wish him the best of luck as he embarks on this new journey, and continued happiness in all his future endeavors.

HONORING MUHAMMAD ALI

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support House Resolution 58 in honor of Muhammad Ali—born Cassius Marcellus Clay, on the occasion of his 65th birthday. Internationally known as the "greatest of all time," he single-handedly revolutionized the sport of boxing.

Born on this day in 1942 in Louisville, KY, by the age of 18, Clay had already become the 1960 light-heavyweight Olympic Gold Medalist. It was then that he evolved into a professional fighter, and by 1963, he had won all 19 of his first professional fights. The following year, 1964, Clay won the world heavyweight title against Sonny Liston. Two days later, he announced his acceptance of the teachings of the Nation of Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Ali shortly after.

Ali defended his championship title nine times between 1965 and 1967, more than most heavyweight fighters in such a short period. Citing his Islamic faith, Ali refused to serve in the U.S. military during the war in Vietnam. As a result, his title was revoked, his fighting license was suspended, and he was sentenced to 5 years in prison for draft evasion. He was barred from fighting from March

22, 1967 to October 26, 1970, which many feel were his peak years. Finally, in 1971, the Supreme Court unanimously reversed Ali's conviction, and his boxing privileges were restored.

Ali quickly set about regaining the heavyweight title, which was now held by the indomitable Joe Frazier. In the first of three bouts with Frazier, Ali lost what was dubbed "the fight of the century." In a rematch with Frazier in 1974, Ali was victorious in redeeming his championship title. In October of that same year, the fight considered to be his most anticipated and promoted of his career, was the "rumble in the jungle" against a younger and vibrant George Foreman. The fight took place in Kinshasa, Zaire, and there were many who doubted that Ali would emerge the victor. In this fight, Ali introduced what he called the "rope-a-dope," which he used to tire Foreman and eventually sustain his position as the No. 1 heavyweight champion of the world.

In 1975, his third and final bout with Joe Frazier, labeled the "the thrilla in Manila" by Ali, proved to be one of the toughest and greatest fights of his career. Ali was victorious once more. Sadly, in 1978, Ali lost the title to Leon Spinks. That same year, in a rematch with Spinks, Ali won the championship title for the third time. In his final fight, "the drama in Bahamas," against Trevor Berbick in 1981, his loss signaled the decline of the fighter's reign, and on December 12, 1981, Muhammad Ali said goodbye to boxing at the age of 39. There were also reports of his deteriorating health, and in 1982, the world knew that he was suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Ali remains a beloved and active public figure. He has enjoyed countless honors, such as becoming No. 13 of the Forbes Celebrity 100, receiving the Spirit of America Award which named him the most recognized American in the world, named "Kentucky Athlete of the Century," and lighting the flame at the 1996 Summer Olympics. In 2005, Ali received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the \$60 million Muhammad Ali Center was opened in his honor in Louisville, KY. He is a United Nations Messenger of Peace and the first sportsman to receive an Otto Hahn Peace Medal. He is also the namesake of the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act.

More than a superior in the boxing world, Ali took a stand against injustice. He was a champion of the civil rights movement, and an involved activist who used his power and fame to push noble social change. His refusal to fight in a war that he didn't believe in made a statement to not only the African-American community, but to the world. Ali sacrificed boxing, the one thing he loved the most, to stand up for that which he believed. His practice of Islam and civil disobedience propelled him to larger than life status. Muhammad Ali has inspired millions throughout the world. He has given people hope and proved that anyone can overcome insurmountable odds. He has given people courage and shown us all that with spirit and determination, a simple person can make a difference. There will never be another Muhammad Ali.

So Madam Speaker, it is with great distinction that I stand here today to wish the champ, the living legend, "The Greatest," Muhammad Ali, a happy birthday.