

THE KING LEGACY AWARD FOR
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to "The King Legacy Award for International Service." In January 2007, Greek Ambassador Alexandros Mallias received this coveted award for his contributions to peace in the Balkans, to Greek-American relations, and to efforts to prevent such abhorrent practices as human trafficking, which is a modern form of slavery.

Accepting the award, the Greek ambassador spoke of Dr. King's struggle for freedom and against discrimination in the context of the search for justice memorialized by classic Greek tragic playwrights, like Aeschylus in his play "Prometheus Bound" and Sophocles in his play "Antigone." He also highlighted the inspiration given by Dr. King to struggles for democracy worldwide, including Greece during military dictatorship in the late 1960s, and against discrimination, noting also that AHEPA, the largest and oldest Greek-American association, was founded in Atlanta, GA in 1922, precisely to defend Greek immigrants from persecution and segregation.

Below is an article Ambassador Mallias wrote on Dr. King and the Greek classics.

[From the Washington Times, Jan. 29, 2008]

DR. KING AND THE GREEK CLASSICS

(By Alexandros P. Mallias)

This year will mark the 40th anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. His death on April 4, 1968, found my country in the midst of one of its darkest hours, as the one year anniversary of an oppressive military dictatorship neared.

With my fellow citizens living under military rule and deprived of the very basic freedoms, I was inspired by the people of Birmingham, Ala., of Memphis and Atlanta, who, in a most dignified way, poured into the streets, standing up for what was rightly theirs.

Across the Atlantic, the civil-rights movement reached us in the clarion voice of Martin Luther King Jr., and hope stirred in the hearts of many Greek people like myself that "We", too, "Shall Overcome."

Upon my arrival in Washington as Greece's ambassador, and influenced by what I call the current "Golden Age for the Classics" in the United States, I have gone back to the staples of my education with new appreciation—Sophocles, Plato, Homer, Heraclitus, Thucydides. And I realized that the Rev. King's speeches and homilies are fraught with references to the Greek classics.

I pored over his writings and speeches and realized his was no simple preaching. I began to sense he had a profound understanding of what we call the "classics." In his Nobel acceptance speech, he spoke of Greek literature, of Homer and the temptresses Sirens, of Orpheus—not in dry academic fashion, but as part and parcel of his understanding of the world.

As the beneficiary of a classical education, as were most young Greeks of my generation, the words of Dr. King brought to mind great orators of ancient Greece—Demosthenes, for one, who had to overcome his own particular limitations.

In his sermon "Loving Your Enemies," delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala., Nov. 17, 1957, Dr. King expounded on the power and comprehensiveness of the Greek language, explaining how Greek "comes to our aid beautifully in giving us the real meaning and depth of the whole philosophy of love . . . for you see the Greek language has three words for love . . . eros . . . a sort of aesthetic love. Plato talks about it a great deal in his dialogues, a sort of yearning of the soul for the realm of the gods. Then the Greek language talks about philia . . . the intimate affection between personal friends. The Greek language comes out with another word for love. It is the word agape . . . the understanding, creative, redemptive good will for all men. It is a love that seeks nothing in return."

Erudite men and women have researched the education of Dr. King, concluding that he studied the ancient Greek classics at length and drew inspiration not only from the Bible, but also from ancient Greek philosophers, playwrights and political figures.

Dr. King's "Letter From Birmingham Jail" of April 16, 1963, was addressed to his fellow clergymen and expounded upon his own theory of civil disobedience: "I submit that an individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment . . . is in reality expressing the highest respect for law" brought to mind Antigone, a reluctant but inevitably brave heroine, in Sophocles' namesake play, who said: "I will not obey an unjust law, and if something happens because of it—so be it."

This was not wasted on classics professor Lewis Sussman of the University of Florida, who wrote extensively on this connection.

I need no further proof of the inspiration Dr. King imparted from the classics than his own words in the last speech of his life, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," which resounded around the world on April 3, 1968, just one day before his assassination in Memphis: "I would take my mental flight by Egypt through, or rather across the Red Sea, through the wilderness on toward the promised land. And in spite of its magnificence, I wouldn't stop there. I would move on by Greece, and take my mind to Mount Olympus. And I would see Plato, Aristotle, Socrates, Euripides and Aristophanes assembled around the Parthenon as they discussed the great and eternal issues of reality."

Dr. King's words continue to inspire me. And what I impart from him is similar to what I imparted from the ancient Greek tradition that the "good life" is the one in which the individual partakes in the responsibility and concerns of all society.

HONORING ALIPIO COCO CABRERA

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Alipio Coco Cabrera on his 25th anniversary in radio and television broadcasting. Coco can be considered a communicator by nature. He was born in Villa Mella, Dominican Republic. He started his career as a journalist for "Noti Tiempo" commercial radio station as well as a writer for "El Nacional" newspaper. Coco immigrated to the United States in 1978, settling in New York City. He continued to

work for Dominican Republic Media but also became a radio correspondent for "Radio Mil and Nacional."

Coco received a contract with Hispanic Broadcasting Association, HBC, to work on many of their projects. He is now part of the powerful radio and television chain known as Univision. He can be heard on various radio programs, "Coco and Gisela," "Coco Clasicos," and "The Coco and Celines Show" on 105.9 Latin Mix. This show is known as one of the most important morning radio shows in the New York area. He has also made guest appearances on Univision TV shows such as "Despierta America," "Al Despertar" and "Don Francisco Presenta."

Throughout his career, Coco has received numerous national and international awards, which include: "Cassandra Distinguished Radio Personality," presented by the Association of Arts & Journalism of Santo Domingo. He was the first Dominican to receive this award that lived outside the country. In 2007, Coco received the "Distinguished Journalist and Citizen Award" presented by Dr. Pedro Henriquez Ureña, director of Human Rights Organization of Santo Domingo.

Alipio Coco Cabrera is a veteran of radio and is best known for his unique style and electric personality. It is only fitting that on February 17, 2008, he will be honored for 25 years in the radio broadcasting business at a banquet to be held at the United Palace Theater in New York City.

Please join me in honoring Alipio Coco Cabrera for his outstanding achievements and in congratulating him, his children Jean Carols and Jacyra.

RECOGNIZING UNO, THE FIRST
BEAGLE TO WIN "BEST IN
SHOW" AT THE 2008 WEST-
MINSTER KENNEL CLUB DOG
SHOW

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Uno, the first beagle to win "Best In Show" at the 132nd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden.

Uno was bred and is co-owned by Kathy Weichert, of Belleville, IL. While Uno came into this competition with 32 previous best in show ribbons, he faced considerable competition at this year's Westminster event. Not only had no beagle ever won "Best In Show" at Westminster, no beagle had even placed first in the hound division since 1939.

Uno not only won the recognition of the judges at this year's Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, but he was also the fan's favorite as was made evident by the rousing, standing ovation from the capacity crowd at Madison Square Garden when his victory was announced.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Kathy Weichert, owner of K-Run Kennels in Belleville, IL and recognizing Uno, this year's "Best In Show" winner at the 2008 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. POWERS

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mayor Charles E. Powers, the former mayor of Fort Mill, SC, a town I have the honor of representing. I call his service to the attention of the House because his long years in office are a model for local government.

Charles Powers served as mayor of Fort Mill for 24 years, and before that, as a member of the city council. During all these years, he worked and raised a family, but the City claimed his devotion. As mayor, he was totally committed. Fort Mill came first.

While serving as mayor, Charles Powers oversaw his small town as it grew and grew in the backwash of Charlotte, NC. He made sure that Fort Mill got its share of the growth, yet never lost its hometown quality, its hospitality and friendship. He helped Fort Mill remain a special place, and not become a bedroom suburb of Charlotte. He had the vision to see the need for a new city hall, for a local library, for a visitors' center on Main Street, and for numerous other projects. Under his leadership, things got done. Fort Mill flourished as an all-American town.

In his latest race for re-election, Charles Powers did not have the good fortune of winning, but he took defeat with the grace and goodwill that always marked his years in office.

Just a few days ago, Charles Powers, in his well worn role as ambassador of good will, opened the door of a local convenience store, and spoke kindly to the stranger going out. Before he realized that the man had just robbed the store, the stranger turned his pistol on Charles Powers and shot him. Fortunately, Charles Powers survived the assault, and is out and about Fort Mill again.

Local elected officials like Charles Powers deal with problems that nettle people most, from potholes to public schools. Leaders like him solve those problems and make our democracy work and our communities livable. When they step down after years of service, they deserve our recognition and respect.

IN TRIBUTE TO ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College as it marks 100 years since its doors first opened for classes.

The school, which is known throughout Georgia as ABAC, has grown from a high school with three instructors and 27 students to more than 3,600 students with a reputation as one of the Nation's 10 best community colleges.

Located in Tifton, GA, the school is the product of a 1906 Georgia law that established a district agricultural high school in each of Georgia's congressional districts. Mr. H.H. Tift successfully led an effort to secure the

school for Tifton, which outbid other area cities. The school—originally named The Second District A&M School—opened its doors on February 20, 1908.

Madam Speaker, students received a high school education that let them go on to careers in farming, business and medicine, but as education improved in rural areas, the State saw the need for a men's senior State college in South Georgia. In 1924, the school began the transition from a high school curriculum to a college program as the South Georgia A&M College.

This would be the first of several changes to the school's name and purpose. The biggest change came in the midst of the Great Depression in 1933, when the college's focus was narrowed to just agriculture and home economics and it was renamed the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to honor a Georgia signer of the United States Constitution.

Madam Speaker, the school's focus has expanded over the years and now includes 57 diverse programs of study, including bachelor of applied science degrees in diversified agriculture and in turfgrass and golf course management.

ABAC's programs in turfgrass and golf course management have been cited as some of the best in North America, and the college has also been recognized for its top marks in student-facility interaction and academic challenge.

Madam Speaker, I am confident my colleagues will join me in honoring ABAC for its 100 years of service to Georgia's students.

HONORING CLARENCE, NEW YORK

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in celebration and recognition of the 200th anniversary of Clarence, NY.

The roots of this historic town date back to 1799, when Asa Ransom became the first to settle there. Ransom opened a tavern, sawmill and gristmill in the area that is today known as the Clarence Hollow. Also among the first to settle in Clarence was Asa Harris, who opened a tavern on the other side of the town in 1807.

It was 1 year later on March 11, 1808, that Clarence was incorporated. This made Clarence the oldest town in Erie County. After its incorporation, Clarence continued to attract farmers and businesses; churches also began to spring up throughout the 52 square mile town. This growing town played a large role in Western New York during the War of 1812. When people fled the City of Buffalo in 1813 due to the fires set by the British, many took refuge in Clarence. Among those who sought shelter were the Salisbury Brothers, who published the Buffalo Gazette from the Asa Harris Tavern.

The late 1800s saw a number of cultural advances in the then small town of Clarence. The first carousel built in the United States was constructed in Clarence in 1897 by Carl Newman and Carl Landow. This hand operated carousel was utilized by the people of Clarence for over 30 years. Also, the impor-

tance of education has a strong history in the town. In 1897, the Parker Union Academy received a large addition, including two towers, one for an observatory and one for a bell. The dedication to the improvement of the school system has been a tradition carried on to the current students in Clarence. A most recent achievement in this area was the Blue Ribbon National School of Excellence award that Clarence High School earned in the 2001–2002 school year.

After World War II, Clarence experienced a great period of growth. The population rose from 2,948 residents to about 13,267 by 1960. The population was not the only thing growing in Clarence in the first half of the twentieth century; the discovery of natural resources opened the doors for many businesses and industries. After gypsum was detected in 1925, the National Gypsum Company was formed and mined for gypsum until 1982. Other resources that were discovered in Clarence during this period were sand and gravel, which provided supplies for many important industries in western New York.

The expansion of industry and culture was also fueled by the implantable pacemaker, patented by Wilson Greatbatch in 1962. Following the invention of this lifesaving device, Greatbatch founded the Wilson Greatbatch LTD. in 1970. The location of this research facility in Clarence opened the doors for a number of employment opportunities and technological advances.

Finally, the history of Clarence can not be discussed without noting that the town's greatest resource is the hard-working members of the community. In Clarence, you find generous, down-to-earth, friendly people who are willing to help their neighbors. More than anything else to celebrate on this 200th anniversary is the good-hearted and gracious people of Clarence.

Thus, Madam Speaker, in recognition of its rich history, agricultural tradition, innovation, and its wonderful residents, I ask that this Honorable Body join me in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Town of Clarence.

HONORING STATION POINT ALLERTON AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE SUMNER I. KIMBALL AWARD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor those serving in the United States Coast Guard at Station Point Allerton of Hull, Massachusetts. They are the proud recipient of the prestigious Sumner I. Kimball Readiness Award.

The crew at Station Point Allerton has upheld a long tradition of life saving and mission excellence that was started by Joshua James and Sumner Kimball, the General Superintendent of the Life-Saving Service from 1878–1916. James and Kimball were among the most celebrated life savers in the world and they both served just a short distance from their current Coast Guard station.

The Sumner I. Kimball Readiness Award was established in April of 2001 to recognize United States Coast Guard Boat Force units