

the world. It reaches back into history, particularly into Sudan where much of the activities of fundamentalist Islamist groups found their origins, and traces them to the modern-day struggle against extremist forces around the world. We cannot understand the current war on terror, which extends far beyond the terrible events of September 11, without examining this important book by Collins and Burr.

I have attached Dr. Collins' obituary printed in the Los Angeles Times. The loss of this bright mind will be felt acutely by all whose lives Dr. Collins touched with his scholarship. I extend my condolences to his family and friends.

[From the Los Angeles Times, Apr. 25, 2008]

ROBERT O. COLLINS, 75; UC SCHOLAR'S BIN LADEN BOOK WAS WITHDRAWN BY PUBLISHER
(By Jocelyn Y. Stewart)

In a career devoted to the study of Africa's Upper Nile Valley, particularly Sudan, historian Robert O. Collins wrote books and articles that were considered required reading for scholars and students of Africa.

The U.S. government sought his insight on the conflict in Darfur and on Osama bin Laden. Hollywood filmmakers asked his advice in depicting the region on screen. A former president of Sudan presented Collins with a distinguished award for scholarship.

But when Collins and a colleague wrote the 2006 book "Alms for Jihad: Charity and Terrorism in the Islamic World," the two historians found themselves in the middle of what the New York Times called an international cause celebre.

To avoid a defamation lawsuit in British courts—where the burden of proof is on the defendant—the publisher of "Alms" apologized to a wealthy Saudi mentioned in the book, Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz, and paid a settlement. The publisher, Cambridge University Press, also destroyed all unsold copies of "Alms," an act of pure heresy to Collins and other scholars.

Until his death from cancer in Santa Barbara on April 11, the 75-year-old Collins maintained that he and J. Millard Burr had written a good book that deserved to exist. "The Shaykh can burn the books in Britain, but he cannot prevent the recovery of the copyright by the authors nor their search for a U.S. publisher to reprint a new edition of 'Alms for Jihad,'" Collins said in an essay posted online at George Mason University's History News Network.

The "Alms" debacle was a rare incident in the life of the professor emeritus who was a preeminent scholar in his field.

Robert Oakley Collins was born in Waukegan, Ill., on April 1, 1933. His interest in Africa was ignited while browsing the library at Dartmouth University in the 1950s.

He found the Africa area and he just became enthralled," said his daughter, Catharine Collins Kristian. "At the time, it was an emerging area. All the colonial countries were either leaving or talking about granting independence."

Collins traveled to Sudan in 1956, the year the country gained independence. It was the first of many trips and the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the nation, Kristian said.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth in 1954, Collins earned many other degrees in history: bachelor's and master's degrees from Oxford University's Balliol College in 1956 and 1960, as well as a master's degree and a doctorate from Yale University in 1958 and 1959. He was fluent in Arabic.

Collins taught for brief periods at Williams College in Massachusetts and at Columbia University in New York before joining the faculty of UC Santa Barbara in 1965.

For 10 years Collins served as dean of the graduate division. After his retirement in 1994 he continued to teach, write and mentor. With his doctoral students he was demanding, affable and always available.

"He wanted us to have a holistic understanding of African history from the beginning of times to modern times. And he was tough," said Scopas S. Poggo, a native of Sudan who is now an assistant professor of African American and African studies at Ohio State University.

Collins wrote or co-wrote at least 30 books and many articles. His book "Shadows in the Grass: Britain in the Southern Sudan, 1918-1956" won the John Ben Snow Foundation Prize for the best book in British studies in 1984.

An eloquent public speaker, Collins brought strong storytelling skills to his writing, melding them with meticulous research. "Alms" was also thoroughly researched, "our interpretations judicious, our conclusions made in good faith on the available evidence," Collins wrote in his online essay.

But "Alms" may be on the shelf again with a new publisher, Kristian said. Collins' book "A History of Modern Sudan" is scheduled for release in May. The book traces Sudan's history over 200 years and reveals the link between tragedies of today and events of the past.

"I wish all of his books could be reprinted," Poggo said. "He has made very significant contributions to the history of southern Sudan. He left a very strong legacy."

In addition to his daughter, Collins is survived by two sons, Randolph William Collins of Healdsburg, Calif., and Robert Ware Collins of San Jose; two brothers, Jack Gore Collins of Portland, Ore., and George William Collins II of Chesterland, Ohio; and five grandchildren.

There will be no public memorial service. Memorial donations may be sent to the Sudan-American Foundation for Education (SAFE), 141 N. Henderson Road, No. 1205, Arlington, VA 22203.

HONORING LEWIS CHAPPELEAR

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commend and congratulate an outstanding California teacher, Lewis Chappellear, for being named a finalist for the National Teacher of the Year award.

Mr. Chappellear is an accomplished scholar, receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in biomedical engineering from Boston University in 1994, a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Columbia University in 1995, and a California Clear Teaching Credential in math, physics, and electronics in 2001. He received a National Board Certification in 2005. Highly praised by both his students and the community, he has received several awards including: Los Angeles Unified School District, LAUSD, Teacher of the Year, Los Angeles County Teacher of the Year, and California Teacher of the Year, and is California's nominee for the National Teacher of the Year Award.

Most importantly, Mr. Chappellear is a renowned teacher. He developed Monroe's School of Engineering and Design—an extremely successful hands-on learning environ-

ment which has received several prestigious awards. The school's mission is to prepare students for hightech jobs by placing students in internships through collaboration with local organizations and businesses. Students work on projects related to careers in engineering and jobs skills such as how to write a resume or business letter. He encourages learning by incorporating the most recent computer software and technology into his classroom lectures in a way that inspires all of his students.

Realizing that robotics is one of the most effective ways to teach science and math, Mr. Chappellear has recruited and trained teachers from all over California to begin similar robotics programs. In 2007, his students took first place in a regional robotics championship held at California State University, Northridge.

Mr. Chappellear's work extends beyond the classroom. After noticing that students in his classes were having problems with drugs and alcohol, he facilitated groups to help students during his breaks. He considers himself an important part of the community: His students are his family. His philosophy on teaching is to make emotional connections with each student and to make their learning relevant. He believes that everything in the classroom should be interdisciplinary. In his words, "I am not just an Engineering and Design teacher * * * I am also a mentor, a guide and a critical link in my students' lives." He feels that student achievement is based in rigor, relevance and relationships.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Lewis Chappellear as a finalist for the National Teacher of the Year award. I am truly honored to pay tribute to this outstanding teacher.

HONORING MRS. DEBORAH ROZANSKI

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Deborah Rozanski on the occasion of her retirement. Mrs. Rozanski has served as a New Jersey public school teacher for 34 years. She has dedicated herself to the Audubon School District for the past 29 years, enriching the lives of countless students. In addition, Mrs. Rozanski deserves to be commended for her dedication over the past 28 years as an advisor to the Audubon Safety Patrol, as a student council advisor, and as a representative on the instructional council.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Rozanski is also an advocate for the protection of our environment. Mrs. Rozanski has organized the planting of many trees on the Mansion Avenue School campus, which add to the beauty of the school and the surrounding community.

Madam Speaker, the devotion that Mrs. Rozanski has shown to her work and to the community is truly praiseworthy. I want to thank Mrs. Rozanski for her tireless effort as a teacher and wish her the best of luck upon her retirement.