

issues of profound public interest, ranging from safety to rebuilding and strengthening our nation's middle class.

HONORING THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION OF VIRGIL HAWKINS

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. GRAYSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the courageous civil rights hero Virgil Hawkins. Mr. Hawkins was the leader in the fight for the desegregation of Florida's universities. Mr. Hawkins is a true role model for his determination and personal sacrifice.

Born in 1906 in Okahumpka, Florida, Mr. Hawkins decided from a young age that he wanted to be a lawyer after witnessing the unfair treatment of African Americans in the judicial system. Mr. Hawkins graduated high school in Jacksonville, Florida, and attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. By the time Mr. Hawkins was 42, he had saved up enough money to attend law school by selling insurance and working as a school teacher. In 1949, he applied to the University of Florida Law School in Gainesville.

At the time Mr. Hawkins applied, it was against Florida law for African Americans and

whites to attend school together. Mr. Hawkins was denied admission because of the color of his skin, not because he did not meet the qualifications. He decided to challenge this unjust practice by filing suit with the state Supreme Court. The state offered to pay Mr. Hawkins tuition for an out of state school, but he refused. To prevent similar lawsuits the state opened a law school for African Americans at the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College (FAMC) for Blacks in Tallahassee. In 1952, the Florida Supreme Court dismissed his case, arguing he could attend FAMC. Mr. Hawkins turned to the United States Supreme Court and in 1956 the Court ordered the state of Florida to admit Mr. Hawkins to the University of Florida Law School. Initially, the state did not comply with the Supreme Court's order, citing the violence that would erupt if Mr. Hawkins was admitted. Finally, a district court judge ordered the University of Florida graduate school to open its doors to all qualified students, regardless of race. This was a major step forward in Mr. Hawkins's struggle; unfortunately, University of Florida claimed he was not qualified and did not admit him.

After a nine-year struggle to desegregate Florida universities, Mr. Hawkins attended the unaccredited New England School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts. Due to the lack of accreditation of the law school, he was not allowed to take the bar when he returned to Florida. Mr. Hawkins was not allowed to practice law and worked as a salesman, teacher, a public relations director, and as the director of a community action agency.

Holding on to his dream to practice law, at the age of 69, Mr. Hawkins asked the Florida Supreme Court to admit him to the Florida bar. In 1976, the court allowed Mr. Hawkins to become a lawyer without taking the bar examination. After spending 30 years fighting the discriminatory foundations in the educational system, Mr. Hawkins opened his own law firm in Leesburg, Florida.

Today the law library at the University of Florida is named the Virgil Hawkins Library in honor of the sacrifices he made in his struggle for justice and equality in the admissions processes of the state's university system. A monument honoring Virgil Hawkins stands in his hometown of Okahumpka, Florida, and is located a few blocks from his childhood home. These are just minor tributes to a man who contributed so much to the civil rights struggle in Central Florida, and America as a whole.

Madam Speaker, as Black History Month comes to a close, it is with great honor that I recognize the incredible activism of this civil rights leader. Mr. Hawkins's lifelong struggle for justice is inspirational to all future generations of Floridians, and Americans. As a fellow lawyer, I admire his dedication to seek justice and equal educational opportunities for all. Florida is indebted to Mr. Hawkins for the personal sacrifices and the pathways to equal access to education in the desegregation of our school systems.

## SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2010 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

## FEBRUARY 26

9:30 a.m.  
Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of Veterans Affairs. SR-418

10 a.m.  
Finance  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jeffrey Alan Goldstein, of New York, to be Under Secretary of the Treasury, Francisco J. Sanchez, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, and Sherry Glied, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. SD-215

Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine the Office of Professional Responsibility Investigation into the Office of Legal Counsel Memoranda. SD-226

10:30 a.m.  
Joint Economic Committee  
To hold hearings to examine the road to economic recovery, focusing on prospects for jobs and growth. 2325, Rayburn Building

## MARCH 2

9:30 a.m.  
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
Economic Policy Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine restoring credit, focusing on proposals to fix small business borrowing and lending problems. SD-538

10 a.m.  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine Toyota's recalls and the government's response. SR-253

Judiciary  
Human Rights and the Law Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine global internet freedom and the rule of law, part II. SD-226

2 p.m.  
Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine a legislative presentation from Disabled Veterans of America. 345, Cannon Building

2:30 p.m.  
Intelligence  
To hold closed hearings to consider certain intelligence matters. SH-219

## MARCH 3

9:30 a.m.  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine chemical security, focusing on assessing progress and charting a path forward. SD-342

Appropriations  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
To examine the President's proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2011 for the Environmental Protection Agency. SD-124

Veterans' Affairs  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine mental health care and suicide prevention for veterans. SR-418

10 a.m.  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Business meeting to consider any pending nominations; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Department of the Interior. SD-366

Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine transportation investments relative to the national economy and jobs. SD-406

Finance  
To hold hearings to examine the 2010 trade agenda. SD-215

Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine encouraging innovative and cost-effective crime reduction strategies. SD-226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Fisheries Enforcement Programs and Operations. SR-253

2:30 p.m.  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine oversight challenges in the Medicare prescription drug program. SD-342

## MARCH 4

9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2011 for the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization and the Future Years Defense Program;

with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session. SH-216

Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine legislative presentations from the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Jewish War Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Ex-Prisoners of War, Blinded Veterans Association, Military Officers Association of America, Air Force Sergeants Association, and the Wounded Warrior Project. 345, Cannon Building

2:30 p.m.  
Intelligence  
To hold closed hearings to consider certain intelligence matters. SH-219

## MARCH 9

9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine U.S. European Command, U.S. Africa Command, and U.S. Joint Forces Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SR-222 following the open session. SH-216

Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine a legislative presentation from Veterans of Foreign Wars. SDG-50

## MARCH 10

10 a.m.  
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the lessons and implications of the Christmas day attack, focusing on watchlisting and pre-screening. SD-342

2:30 p.m.  
Foreign Relations  
International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy and Global Women's Issues Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine the future of U.S. public diplomacy. SD-419

Energy and Natural Resources  
Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee  
To hold hearings to examine S. 2895, to restore forest landscapes, protect old growth forests, and manage national forests in the eastside forests of the State of Oregon, S. 2907, to establish a coordinated avalanche protection program, S. 2966 and H.R. 4474, bills to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and S. 2791 and H.R. 3759, bills to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant market-related contract extensions of certain timber contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and timber purchasers. SD-366

## MARCH 11

9:30 a.m.  
Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2011 and the Future Years Defense Program;