

segregation in the Armed Forces, including a stint as the lead in dealing with the outcome of the Harlem riot in 1935. Her meteoric rise to influence came as president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), a post she retained for three decades. In an era of racial tension and the march towards greater minority rights, Height set herself apart as a pioneer, marching with Martin Luther King, Jr., A. Phillip Randolph, and my esteemed colleague, Rep. JOHN LEWIS. Forty years ago, she stood alongside King, a marble and limestone Lincoln, and a reflecting pool, as he announced a dream he had of a more perfect union. She not only stood at the precipice of history, she helped carve out a significant and indelible part of it.

The cause of her life proved to be dealing with the unmet needs of the downtrodden and forgotten. As president of NCNW, she focused on improving the lot of women and their families, working tirelessly to combat hunger and establish home ownership programs for those of low income. After 30 years at the helm of NCNW, she became its chair and never gave up the fight well into her late 90s. She recently met with President Obama as part of a group of key African American leaders meeting at the White House for a summit on race and the economy. In 1994, President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and ten years later, this Richmond, Virginia native born to working-class parents earned the highest civilian and most distinguished award presented by this Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal.

Dorothy Height taught us all—women and men of all faiths and races—to never relent in the struggle for equality. With a steel spine, grit, and determination, she lent a powerful female voice to a movement that needed her personal grace and perseverance. She had no tolerance for sitting idly by or leaving the hard work for generations that followed, famously noting that “if the time is not ripe, we have to ripen the time.” May we carry that sentiment and her uplifting spirit as we face the challenges that confront us as a nation. She will be missed, but the power of her life’s work will not: it will continue to inspire and motivate us for generations to come.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the legacy of Dr. Dorothy Height, who passed away this morning at the age of 98. As one of the most significant figures of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Dorothy Height was a true American heroine. Dr. Height spent her entire life fighting injustice and discrimination, and, in doing so, helped make our society more equitable and tolerant.

Dr. Dorothy Height was born in Richmond, Virginia in 1912, a setting in which racism and sexism were the norm. However, Dr. Height did not let this oppressive environment prevent her from following her dreams. After being denied entrance to Barnard College due to a quota allowing only two African-American students per class, she enrolled at New York University, where she earned a Master’s degree in educational psychology.

Although Dr. Height began her career as a caseworker, she soon felt called to the arena of social justice and joined the National Council of Negro Women. In 1957, Dr. Height was elected President of the National Council of Negro Women and proudly served in that post for 40 years. Dr. Height also served as the

president of the historically black Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, where she developed programs that promoted education and leadership among African-American women.

Dr. Height is often referred to as the “god-mother of the Civil Rights Movement” due to her founding role in the Movement and her consistent voice of guidance and inspiration in the fight against discrimination. Dr. Height fought to desegregate public schools, obtain voting rights for African-Americans, and ensure equality for women of all races. Dr. Height marched alongside Dr. Martin Luther King and gave advice to Presidents Dwight Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson on civil rights and women’s rights issues.

Dr. Height’s amazing and inspirational work has been honored by our nation’s most prestigious awards. In 1994, President Bill Clinton awarded Dr. Height with the Medal of Freedom and in 2004, President George W. Bush presented her with the Congressional Gold Medal. Dr. Height has also received the Presidential Citizen Medal, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Freedom From Want Award, the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, and the 7th Annual Heinz Award Chairman’s Medal.

Dr. Height never stopped fighting for justice and equality, and in January 2009, Dr. Height was honored as a distinguished guest at the inauguration of our nation’s first African-American president.

Our country has lost a true leader and a beacon of social justice. I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Dorothy Height, as they grieve the loss of this special individual. All Americans mourn her loss, but we take solace in the certain knowledge that our country is better because of her.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible life and legacy of a great leader in the Civil Rights Movement and a dear friend and neighbor, Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, who passed away this morning, at the age of 98.

Dr. Height was always elegant, full of grace and poise, naturally commanding attention. She led an extraordinary life fighting for civil rights and women’s rights. Her fight began when she was denied entrance into college because the school had filled its annual quota of black students, and she never gave up the fight.

Over the years, she continued the fight for justice and equality for all Americans. In fact, Dr. Height was on stage at the Lincoln Memorial with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech. She was in Birmingham, Alabama to comfort the families of the four African-American girls who perished in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church. She watched as President John F. Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act to eliminate wage disparity based on sex. She also helped create and organize the Black Family Reunion Celebration, and was among the few women present at the Million Man March in 1995.

Throughout her life, she befriended countless people as she strove for justice. Among her many friends were the American educator and National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) founder Mary McLeod Bethune, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Dr. King, to name a few.

Dr. Height also served as the Director of the YWCA’s Center for Racial Justice, as a visiting professor at the Delhi School of Social

Work in India, as National President of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority, and as the fourth President of the NCNW. Her forty-year tenure as President of the NCNW was the highlight of her distinguished career.

In addition to her tireless work for racial justice and gender equality, she served on the advisory council of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the National Advisory Council on Aging. Along with her 36 honorary doctorates from colleges and universities, she is a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Although she received many accolades, she did not put forth her best efforts to achieve notoriety or fame. She said, “Stop worrying about whose name gets in the paper and start doing something . . . We must try to take our task more seriously and ourselves more lightly.”

Dr. Dorothy Irene Height was a remarkable woman. Her years were long as were her accomplishments. Leonardo da Vinci said, “As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so a life well used brings happy death.” May Dr. Height sleep happily now for a life well used.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, April 26 and 27.

Mr. POSEY, for 5 minutes, April 22.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, April 26 and 27.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and April 21, 22, and 23.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, April 26 and 27.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today and April 21.

Mr. ROHRBACHER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today. (The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)