

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF LIONVILLE FIRE COMPANY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lionville Fire Company on its 100th anniversary of selfless dedication and commitment to the community.

This is a great milestone and a momentous accomplishment and I take great pleasure in being able to honor the men and women of the Lionville Fire Company for their dedication and outstanding service.

For 100 years, the officers, firefighters, and fire police of Lionville Fire Company have proudly and capably served and protected the thousands of citizens of Chester County, including the Townships of Upper Uwchlan, Uwchlan, and West Pikeland. They have always answered the call to help their neighbors in distress, whether it is putting out a fire, aiding those whose homes have flooded, or rescuing animals. During these years of service, the Company has also lost the lives of fallen firefighters as they have answered the call. Special tribute needs to be paid to these brave servants: Charles Martin, Jonathan Windle and David Good.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Lionville Fire Company on its 100th anniversary and to honor this exemplary organization for its commitment, dedication, and outstanding history of service to the community.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to honor his legacy and recognize the innumerable Americans who continue along the path he paved towards justice and liberty for all citizens.

It is rare that one person can change the fate of our Nation; however Dr. King was able to do just that. Dr. King relied on his relationship with God and his faith in justice to articulate his vision for America in a way that touched the hearts and minds of the American public.

Dr. King called on all of us to no longer stand alone in silence, but to stand up together as a voice against injustice. He inspired us to fight for change through nonviolent means, and paved the road for us to continue that fight even after his death.

Few people would sacrifice time and energy for loved ones, fewer for strangers, yet Dr.

King humbled himself to do just that. He ultimately sacrificed his life and his family sacrificed their patriarch for the struggle towards political justice for all Americans. Today we pay homage for their selflessness and publicly thank them for their commitments to humanity.

Dr. King left us with the challenge to courageously fight and secure the civil rights for all, from the impoverished and disenfranchised underclass to the politically and economically endowed. Although his challenge was issued 40 years ago, we still have not fully realized his noble request.

Today, that legacy is as much about the past as it is about the future. Dr. King's dream is truly timeless, and I hope that our next generation will find inspiration in his faith and vision.

RECOGNIZING THE ORGANIZERS OF "LZ: RGV"—A FITTING WELCOME HOME TO VETERANS OF VIETNAM WAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of Manuel Cantu, Jr., Judge Ramon Garcia and the American Legion Post 408 of Edinburg, Texas. These gentlemen, along with the Legion Post, are planning a remarkable and poignant event for this Saturday in McAllen, Texas, that pays a debt 38 years overdue.

Four years ago, Judge Ramon asked Mr. Cantu, then Legion Post commander, if the Vietnam Veterans in South Texas had ever gotten a proper homecoming celebration after their service in the war. No such recognition had ever been given and the good people of South Texas have worked to correct that omission.

Their efforts culminate in the three day "LZ: RGV"—Landing Zone: Rio Grande Valley—a sincere welcome home to the veterans of the Vietnam conflict.

The honor, duty and sacrifice of these veterans could not be clearer. Of the two and a half million men and women who served in Vietnam, six hundred and sixty spent time as prisoners of war, three hundred thousand were wounded—seventy-five thousand suffering permanent disability, over two thousand remain missing, and fifty-eight thousand died in service to their country.

However, when these servicemembers returned home, they were overshadowed by the crossfire of public debate over our nation's involvement in the Vietnam War. As a result, these brave men and women never received the welcome home, salute and gratitude they justly deserved.

Today, thanks to the efforts of Post 408, as well as other veteran organizations and fellow Texans, there will be a spectacular and fitting recognition of the Vietnam veterans. Centered

around the McAllen, Texas Convention Center and stretching from Thursday, April 7 to Saturday, April 9, LZ: RGV will feature the traveling Wall That Heals (a half scale replica of the Vietnam Memorial), dedication of a new memorial to Texans who died in the Vietnam War, a day of education and exhibits, dramatic presentations, and a motorcycle procession headed by the Warriors Watch Riders.

I am heartened by the support of the whole community in making this event special and meaningful for Vietnam Veterans. Five countries, several cities, and the Texas House and Senate in concurrent resolution, have proclaimed Saturday, April 9 as Welcome Home South Texas Vietnam Veterans Day. The list of sponsors is long and filled with public agencies, businesses, nonprofit groups, and private individuals. Several individuals have given their time and talent to produce a first-class experience.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize LZ: RGV, which so fittingly and joyously acknowledges, appreciates, and celebrates the sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and provides the welcome home they deserved.

A CELEBRATION OF 90 YEARS OF THE LIFE, LEGACY, LEADERSHIP AND LOVE OF DR. THELMA DAVIDSON ADAIR—VILLAGE MOTHER OF HARLEM "EDUCATOR, PIONEER, ACTIVIST, MOTHER, GRAND & GREAT GRAND-MOTHER"

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the Life, Legacy, Leadership and Love of our Village Mother of Harlem and my longtime friend and confidant, Dr. Thelma Davidson Adair.

On Sunday, April 3, 2011, the Mount Morris Ascension Church and the Greater Harlem community join together to celebrate the wonderful legacy and work of our "Educator, Pioneer, Activist, Mother, Grand & Great Grand-mother," Dr. Thelma Davidson Adair.

Dr. Adair, a Harlem icon and matriarch, is a graduate of Barber-Scotia Jr. College, Concord, North Carolina and Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina. She earned a Master's Degree and Doctorate of Education from Teacher's College, Columbia University. This outstanding remarkable woman has been an outstanding educator, world-renowned church leader, advocate of human rights, peace and justice issues, writer and public speaker.

Beginning her life in the "Jim Crow South," in North Carolina, she refused to let social limitations stand in the way of sharing her gift for teaching with the world. Thelma Davidson met and married the Reverend Dr. Arthur Eugene

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