

to cuss and say 'Screw them niggers'. So I knew they were ignorant and it didn't matter what I said to them," Luper said.

"About that time Dr. Martin Luther King came up and got us all to walk toward the bridge in an effort to get the local Blacks registered to vote. It was a long, hard day.

"That night we all fanned out to be in different homes to listen to President Lyndon Johnson speak on TV to the Nation. I wound up in a pretty run-down house. We all watched TV as President Johnson said that the very next day he was going up to speak to the Congress and to ask them to pass a voters rights bill. We all just went wild."

POLITICAL CANDIDATE

In 1972, Luper threw her hat into the political ring. She ran for the U.S. Senate against fellow Democrat Mike Turpen and Republican Dewey Bartlett.

"As a teacher, I was interested in getting some practical experience in the political realm. And I sure did that. I had debates with both Turpen and Bartlett, so it gave me a great platform to express my views. But, of course, Dewey Bartlett won the election. It was still a great educational experience for me and for my students. I really enjoyed that experience more than anything else I have ever done.

"I remember one incident down somewhere in southeast Oklahoma, down there in 'Little Dixie'. I was speaking at a political rally when a White man stood up and asked me what I thought about interracial marriage. I said, 'I'm so happy you asked me that. You see as an educator and a student of history, I have never seen an ant having intercourse with an elephant. What that basically means, sir, is that anything that God did not want to have mate with another of his creations He made it physically impossible. That man got mad and walked out,' she said with a hardy laugh."

When asked what her typical day is like today, Clara Luper said: "There really is no 'typical day,' because I am involved in so much and traveling a lot. But when I am home, I usually get up at 6 a.m. I shower, read the newspapers and listen to the news on either the TV or the radio. Then I go down to the little lake behind my house and, every other day, I feed the fish. And then I usually phone my children and talk with my sister. And on Mondays, I try to spend several hours at my office at the Freedom Center."

She says she also relaxes by playing the word game Scrabble with anyone who is available. And she likes listening to spiritual music and to the blues.

HONORS TO WHOM HONORS ARE DUE

At the time of my interview with her, Clara Luper was 83 years old. Yet she still maintained a heavy speaking schedule all across the country. That is because she is known as a freedom fighter, a true Civil Rights hero, across the nation and not just in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma House of Representatives passed HB 2715 honored her by naming a portion of NE 23rd Street in Oklahoma City as "Clara Luper Corridor". She has been inundated with over 500 other honors as well. And of them she says, "Every award has been a recognition of the people who worked with me. So all those awards are special. It just shows what people working together for a common cause can do."

Devon Energy Corporation joined hands with Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company to establish a "Clara Luper Scholarship" program at Oklahoma City University. It was set up to help minority students and to honor Luper for her contributions to education in Oklahoma and to the Civil Rights movement here and throughout the Nation.

And on May 5, 2007, the first 22 Clara Luper scholars received their diplomas from OCU. They had completed, as a group, some 13,000 hours of community service during their four years at the University.

Clara Luper wrote a 346 page book, *Behold the Walls*, which is her account of development of the Civil Rights movement during her lifetime. It was published in 1979, and Oklahoma City University reprinted the book in January, 2007.

"Looking back after all these years," Luper said. "I see how the progress we made took the coordinated efforts of so many people. It was not just the work of Clara Luper. It was the work of every person who helped in any way to advance the movement. Some marched and some participated in sit-in's, while others were behind the scenes in prayer and providing food and money for those of us who were out front.

"I have seen in my lifetime the fulfillment of my father's dream that 'Someday it will be alright'. I have seen us get the right to eat in any restaurant or to use any restroom, to stay in any hotel in the country. I am grateful that we are now able to take our family to the zoo on any day, not just on one day a week that was formerly designated for coloreds. But we still have a long way to go."

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY STUDENT EMILY BOYSON

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious U.S. service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the Third District of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our Nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Emily Boyson, a U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Appointee. Emily is a graduate of Bishop Lynch High School where she was on the varsity swim team and partook in the breast stroke and individual medley. Emily was also a part of the National Honor Society as the parliamentarian, Mu Alpha Theta as treasurer, and the New Conservatory Dallas as a violinist. Emily was part of a prestigious mathematics program in high school and won several awards in school science fairs. She received the Star Student Award given to her by Bishop Lynch faculty, the Renaissance Program Award and the Dean of Students Letter of Recognition of Perfect Conduct. Emily wants to attend an Academy in order to mold herself into a strong, effective military leader capable of protecting America while fulfilling the mission of the military.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. SIRE. Madam Chair, I rise today to express my deep concern regarding the drastic cuts being made to the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in the Agriculture Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2012. While I understand the need to balance the budget, I cannot support cuts made to WIC, which has proven to be an effective tool in improving the health of our Nation's children.

Over nine million low and moderate income women, infants, and children rely on WIC to provide them with quality nutrition education services and access to maternal, prenatal, and pediatric health-care services. WIC is a premier public health nutrition program and makes sure that our Nation's children begin their life as healthy as possible. During early childhood, infants with poor nutrition are susceptible to increased chances of anemia and negatively impact a child's ability to learn. WIC plays a vital role in ensuring that WIC infants are in better health than eligible infants not participating in WIC.

With approximately one out of every two babies born in our country enrolled in WIC, it is a vital service that not only ensures infants' healthy well-being, but also saves health care costs. Up to \$3.13 for every WIC dollar spent within the first 60 days of birth results in health care cost savings. Additionally, lower Medicaid costs are tied to prenatal participation in the WIC program. Preterm births cost our country over twenty-six billion dollars every year with the average first year medical costs for premature births costing over forty-nine thousand dollars and first year medical costs for babies without complications cost just over four thousand dollars. It has been proven that for every dollar spent on prenatal WIC participation for low-income Medicaid women, the results included fewer premature births, longer pregnancies, and fewer infant deaths.

In my home state of New Jersey, the number of women, infants, and children that participate in the program is 171,060. Sixty-one percent of WIC participants are families with income below the poverty level—these are our constituents that are most in need. If the bill is passed, and depending upon the rate of food inflation, New Jersey may lose 3,700 to 6,500 WIC participants, and nationwide there may be a loss of 200,000 to 350,000 WIC participants. During the past fifteen years, Congress has been committed to provide enough funding to all eligible women and children who apply for WIC, and this legislation will break this promise. Indeed, if funding for WIC is insufficient, thousands of women and children