

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, from Monday, February 2, 2015 to Thursday, February 5, 2015 I had to remain in California and was unable to vote.

Had I been present on the House floor on Monday, February 2, 2015, I would have voted “aye” on roll call No. 51, H.R. 361, the Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act. I would have also voted “aye” on roll call No. 52, H.R. 615, the Department of Homeland Security Interoperable Communications Act and “aye” on roll call No. 53, H.R. 623, the Social Media Working Group Act of 2015.

On Tuesday, February 3, 2015, I would have voted “nay” on roll call No. 54, H. Res. 70, On Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 596, To Repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and “nay” on roll call No. 55, H. Res. 70, the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 596. I would have also voted “aye” on roll call No. 56, on Approving the Journal, and “aye” on roll call No. 57, on the Democratic Motion to Recommit on H.R. 596 with Instructions. I would have voted “nay” on roll call No. 58, on Passage of H.R. 596.

On Wednesday, February 4, 2015, I would have voted “nay” on roll call No. 59, Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 50, the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act of 2015, and H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Improvements Act of 2015, and “nay” on roll call No. 60, H. Res. 78, the Rule Providing for Consideration of H.R. 50 and H.R. 527. I would have also voted “aye” on roll call No. 61, H.R. 50, the Cummings of Maryland Part C Amendment No. 2, and “aye” on roll call No. 62, H.R. 50, the Connolly of Virginia Part C Amendment No. 3. I would have also voted “aye” on roll call No. 63, the Democratic Motion to Recommit H.R. 50 with Instructions, and “nay” on roll call No. 64, on Passage of H.R. 50.

On Thursday, February 5, 2015, I would have voted “aye” on roll call No. 65, H.R. 527, the Schrader of Oregon Part A Amendment No. 4, and “aye” on roll call No. 66, H.R. 527, the Jackson Lee of Texas Part A Amendment No. 6. I would have also voted “aye” on roll call No. 67, on the Motion to Recommit H.R. 527 with Instructions, and “nay” on roll call No. 68, on Passage of H.R. 527.

REINTRODUCING THE LENA HORNE RECOGNITION ACT OF 2015

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Lena Horne Recognition Act of 2015, which would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the late, renowned singer, actress, and Civil Rights icon, Ms. Lena Mary Calhoun Horne.

As an African American woman born in 1917, Ms. Horne, who passed away in 2010, was truly a woman of firsts, having pioneered the way for many men and women of color through her work in Jazz, film, and the Civil Rights movement. She began her career in the chorus line at Harlem’s famed Cotton Club before moving on to record dozens of musical tracks and playing roles in movies and musicals.

As a young woman, Lena drew much fame from her beauty and talent, yet found many roadblocks in her personal success due to the hyper-racialized nature of show business at the time. However, this adversity would not limit her, and presented a platform for her increasing support of and action in the Civil Rights movement.

The first to do so, Lena signed a long term contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) and embarked on a career in Hollywood, as her celebrity had been noticed by many, despite the color of her skin. She was also the first African American woman to be nominated for a Tony Award. However, again, she found road blocks in her professional life, due to state-law restrictions in on-screen interracial relationships as well as the need to have her roles edited out for Jim Crow abiding viewers. Blacklisted during the period of McCarthyism in the 1950s, Ms. Horne still recorded what would become the best-selling album by a female singer in RCA Victor’s history in 1957.

From music and film, Lena had built a substantial fan base, and by the 1960s, at the peak of the Civil Rights movement, she became a staple on television. She had become so renowned in popular culture despite her race that she appeared on shows such as the Dean Martin Show and Ed Sullivan Show. In 1970, Horne co-starred with well known actor, Harry Belafonte, on a show for ABC donning their names—“Harry and Lena.” She would go on to play herself on The Muppet Show, Sesame Street, and Sanford and Son. In 1981, Lena then received two Grammy awards and a special Tony award for her cast recording of her Broadway show, Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music. In 1989, she received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amongst her many awards, Ms. Horne was the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984. She received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the

International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Lena always fought back when opportunities presented themselves.

For example, during World War II, Lena had been slated to perform for segregated troops of U.S. servicemen. She was appalled to find that African American servicemen had been seated behind German prisoners of war, and refused to partake unless she could sing before an integrated group. As a compromise, Lena left the stage and sang directly in front of her African American counterparts, with the German prisoners of war to her rear.

Lena notably remained committed to bettering lives of the underserved and under-represented for the entirety of her life. An active participant in the movement, Lena met President John F. Kennedy shortly before his assassination, marched in the March on Washington, and ultimately performed and spoke on behalf of the NAACP, SNCC, and National Council of Negro Women. Also notable is the work that she engaged in with former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt to pass anti-lynching laws. Lena was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in support of honoring Lena Horne posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal, for her outstanding contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A beautiful person inside and out, Lena willed her talent, intelligence, and fame to fight against discrimination, traversing her career on a road filled with potholes full of racial bias and degradation. Lena represents the very best of American ideals and signifies the true purpose of the American Dream.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. AZIZAH AL-HIBRI’S LIFETIME OF SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 9, 2015

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, a distinguished women’s and human rights advocate, on receiving the prestigious ACCESS Purple Rose Award. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Dr. al-Hibri for her many years of service and contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Dr. al-Hibri is the Founder and Chair of KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights. KARAMAH is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting human rights throughout the globe, especially focusing on gender equity, religious freedom and civil rights in the United States. KARAMAH translates as “dignity” in Arabic and the stated vision of the organization is “Dignity for All.” In 1993, Dr. al-Hibri, then a law professor and

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