November 19, 1999

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise before you today to pay tribute to Mr. John Hightower of Flint, Michigan. On November 27, local officials, friends, and family will gather to honor this longtime activist and community leader.

John Hightower moved to Flint in 1952, where he began a long tenure with the Buick Motor Company. He also joined the UAW and rose through its ranks, serving as a committee member, as well as on the executive boards for Local 659 and Local 659. John also worked as chair of his Local’s civil rights committee, working tirelessly to ensure that his fellow employees were treated with equity and respect.

John’s sense of civil rights extended into his entrepreneurial activities as well. As the owner of Hightower Construction and Hightower Electric Company, John helped build many prominent churches and other buildings in the Flint area. He provided training for other African Americans who wished to join the business world, helping them receive opportunities that normally would have been denied them in the America of the 1950’s and 60’s.

When local banks refused to hire qualified African-Americans for jobs, it was John Hightower who organized rallies and marches to protest and ultimately eliminate these injustices. In later years, John furthered his business interests with another business, Montego Travel Office, later known as the Travel Center of Flint.

Our Flint community owes much to John for his dedication and generosity. Over the years, he has helped citizens gain self-sufficiency and self-respect. He has promoted strong families with strong foundations, and provided food and shelter for the needy.

Mr. Speaker, the celebration to honor John Hightower has a theme entitled “Visions.” Truly John has been a visionary, as he has given much of himself to make our community a better place in which to live. I ask my colleagues in the 106th Congress to join me in saluting John Hightower. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

HONORING JOHN HIGHTOWER

HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the new 1999 American League Rookie of the Year, Carlos Beltran of the Kansas City Royals. Carlos was the nearly unanimous choice for the prestigious award after an exceptional season in which he averaged .293 at the plate with 22 homers, 108 RBIs, 112 runs, and 25 steals in 35 attempts. Carlos is one of those rare players who has been able to put together power with speed, skill with enthusiasm, and an amazing love for the game. He is widely recognized as one of the brightest and most talented players to come into the game in years, fielding impressive performances both at the plate and on his centerfield beat.

Carlos joins a distinguished group of only eight players in baseball history to begin a promising career by surpassing the 100 benchmark in both RBIs and runs. His distinguished colleagues in that group include such baseball greats as Ted Williams, Joe DiMaggio, and another great Kansas City Royal, Fred Lynn, the last outstanding freshman to win the award in 1975. Carlos becomes the third Kansas City Royal to win the Rookie of the Year, joining Lou Pinella in 1969 and Bob Hamelin in 1994.

Carlos has another, even more important reason to celebrate, and further cause for congratulation. Carlos was recently married, and is presently enjoying his honeymoon in the Caribbean with his new bride, Jessica.

At a young 22 years of age, Carlos has begun an auspicious career both on the baseball diamond and as a cherished member of his new and adopted community. Kansas City has warmly welcomed Carlos and encouraged him on his personal and professional quest for excellence. As a fellow Kansas Citian and longtime fan of the Kansas City Royals, I thank Carlos for all his contributions to our team, our baseball, and to the people of Kansas City.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Carlos on his marriage, and saluting the 1999 American League Rookie of the Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. TONY P. HALL
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the new millennium, our focus has been, more or less, with Y2K issues rather than the fact that, for Christians around the world, it represents the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus.

To those and many others, the new millennium provides a rare opportunity for new beginnings and renewed hope which will challenge all people of goodwill to re dedicate themselves to the principles of justice, mercy, forgiveness and peace—precepts made more fundamental by the conflict, turmoil and suffering sadly evident in the lands of the Bible and throughout the world.

In this spirit, church families of the Middle East, both ancient and modern, are inviting peace-loving people to join them in celebrating this opportunity and this anniversary commemoration. Sponsored by the Holy Land Trust, part of the commemoration will be a historic reenactment of the Journey of the Magi, the original pilgrimage of the three wise men over 1,000 miles to Bethlehem to witness and honor the birth of Jesus.

This historic undertaking will have pilgrims from many nations traveling for 99 days by foot, horse and camel along ancient caravan routes through six countries that make up the holy lands of the Bible, commencing in mid-September of next year and ending on December 25th in Bethlehem.

Like the three wise men who brought offerings of peace to Bethlehem, the participants in the Journey of the Magi 2000 will also bear modern day offerings. During each day of the 99 days of the trip, humanitarian assistance will be given to the needy people of the countries through which the travelers pass.

This pilgrimage of peace is being coordinated by the Holy Land Trust and the Middle East Council of Churches, as an expression of the deep-seated desire of church families of the Middle East to seek peace and peace-makers. We appreciate the spirit and purpose of this event, as well as the incredible challenge it represents, and believe it deserves our support.

We trust that all people of goodwill will encourage and support the Journey of the Magi 2000 and other efforts to relieve suffering and promote peace as a fitting entry into the new millennium.

HONORING CARLOS BELTRAN ON WINNING THE 1999 AMERICAN LEAGUE ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

HON. KAREN McCARTHY
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. McCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the new 1999 American League Rookie of the Year, Carlos Beltran of the Kansas City Royals. Carlos was the nearly unanimous choice for the prestigious award after an exceptional season in which he averaged .293 at the plate with 22 homers, 108 RBIs, 112 runs, and 25 steals in 35 attempts. Carlos is one of those rare players who has been able to put together power with speed, skill with enthusiasm, and an amazing love for the game. He is widely recognized as one of the brightest and most talented players to come into the game in years, fielding impressive performances both at the plate and on his centerfield beat.

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Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Carlos on his marriage, and saluting the 1999 American League Rookie of the Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MARCY KAPTUR
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, November 18, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional elder statesman in my