

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ROXCY O'NEAL BOLTON

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to honor Roxcy O'Neal Bolton, a pioneer feminist in my congressional district, who championed the rights of women by widening the gate to equality.

Born in Mississippi in 1926, Roxcy Bolton has always been a trailblazer. She was a persistent advocate who served as a powerful voice for women whose needs were not being addressed.

Through her actions, Roxcy demonstrated her courage and conviction. She showcased the problems facing the women of her time, and encouraged them to take action and expand the fight for equal rights.

In South Florida, Roxcy's plight for equality helped to facilitate change. In the workplace, Roxcy demanded equal respect, equal opportunity and equal pay for men and women. In dining clubs, as was the custom of the time, working men had special dining areas. During business day lunch hours, men were seated and served quickly while women, and even working women with short lunch hours, had to wait in line, looking at empty seats in the men's section. By writing letters, meeting with restaurateurs, and organizing women, Roxcy Bolton changed this policy and, soon, the "men only" policy became obsolete.

Roxcy was also a fighter on behalf of abused women. In 1972, she founded Women in Distress, the first women's rescue shelter in Florida to provide emergency housing, rescue services, and care to women who found themselves in situations of personal crisis. During that time, no one talked about rape, much less did anything about it. Brave victims who actually reported their trauma were often treated callously. Roxcy was not afraid to speak on behalf of these women, and she did so publicly with a march against rape down Flagler Street in downtown Miami. Approximately 100 women gathered to march with Roxcy to make the community take notice of their concerns. It was the first time women had taken to the streets, and Roxcy knew that if women banded together they were going to make a difference. Shortly thereafter, Roxcy approached every local official and persuaded them that something had to be done. In 1972, her efforts resulted in the first Rape Treatment Center in the country located in my congressional district at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. In 1993, this Rape Treatment Center was named after Roxcy Bolton.

Roxcy also organized Florida's first Crime Watch meeting to help curb crime against women. She has served on many boards and commissions working for women's rights, and has been the recipient of numerous civic

awards relating to her work with women's rights.

In 1992, she helped form the Women's Park, the first park in the United States dedicated to all women who have made contributions to our community.

Roxcy continues to be a champion for womankind. She continues to preserve and recognize women's role in history, and fight for human rights, social welfare issues, and an end to sexual discrimination in employment and in education.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have Roxcy O'Neal Bolton in my congressional district, and I wish her many more successful years in the ongoing struggle for women's issues. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this Florida heroine for her remarkable dedication to women and for making South Florida a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS OF GUYANA, INC.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a remarkable cultural and humanitarian organization which has helped to promote and sustain the national pride of the Guyanese community in America and to provide humanitarian assistance to indigent groups in Guyana. Today, I celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Allied Organizations of Guyana.

This organization was established in 1960 to promote the cultural, social, economic, and political welfare of the Guyanese American community and to provide humanitarian assistance to indigent groups in Guyana. During its stewardship of 40 years, it has achieved both objectives. It has helped to create a national pride among Guyanese in America, while providing vital humanitarian assistance to indigent groups in Guyana, such as the Archer's Home, the Dharma Sala, the Children's Wing of the Georgetown Public Hospital, and the Convent of Mercy.

The organization was founded in 1960 by two outstanding Guyanese Americans—Dr. Aaron (Neddy) Peters and Dr. Thomas E. Thompson. Neddy Peters was a successful physician of Guyanese descent who had established a large and successful medical practice in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. He devoted a considerable portion of his time, energy and financial resources to promoting humanitarian efforts in the U.S. and Guyana. So devoted was Neddy Peters to the nation of Guyana that he requested that his body be returned and interred in the soil of Guyana. He died in 1971 and his body was interred in Guyana.

Dr. Thomas Eustace Thompson was a well-known teacher and administrator in the public

school system in New York, who has lived in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn. Like Neddy Peters, he devoted a considerable portion of his time, energy, and financial resources to promoting the arts and culture of Guyana. Together with his wife, Dr. Marguerite Thompson, he had accumulated the largest collection of Guyanese artifacts in the world. The collection was recently destroyed by fire, and it is our fervent hope that Guyanese organizations can put together the resources to replenish and restore this magnificent collection.

The name of those associated with this organization are too numerous to mention, but among the prominent supporters were Eustace Bowen, Frank Applewaite and P.J. Storey from the Georgetown Dramatic Club; David Nurse, Euphemia Nurse and Clarence Griffith from the Help Guyana Movement; Pearl Softleigh from Daneco; Rev. Gladwyn Frazer and Edward S. Butts from the British Guiana Benevolent Association; Theresia Bowling, Ivan Cameron, Dolly Davis, Leslie Hendricks and Claire Johnson from the Guyana group in Queens; Dr. Thomas E. Thompson. Victor Blair and Dr. Marguerite Thompson from the Guyana Educational and Cultural Association.

HONORING CLAYLA DAVIS

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Ms. Clayla Davis for her 41 years of dedicated service to the people of Napa County, California. Ms. Davis is retiring on December 31st of this year from an exceptional 25-year career as Director of the Saint Helena Public Library.

Ms. Clayla Davis has lived in Napa County for most of her life. Prior to being hired as Director of the Saint Helena Public Library in 1975 she distinguished herself in several posts at the Napa City-County Library.

Ms. Davis shepherded the Saint Helena Public Library through several difficult transitions. Soon after taking over she oversaw an ambitious expansion plan to move the library into a new building. When a series of budget cuts in 1978 imposed a 29 percent funding reduction midway through construction, Ms. Davis rescued the project through a series of sort-term fiscal austerity measures. In the 1990s Ms. Davis saw the library through two major remodeling and expansion efforts, effectively doubling its size.

Ms. Davis was instrumental in modernizing Saint Helena library resources. She led the library into the computer age; from one computer to aid circulation to comprehensive resource integration throughout the library. Furthermore, Ms. Davis was instrumental in the

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