Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize someone who has devoted his time and energy to his church and beliefs. Rev. Dr. Thurmond Coleman, Sr., pastored the First Baptist Church in Jefferson County, Kentucky for 45 years. Upon his retirement he was named Pastor Emeritus. Dr. Coleman has served as the Moderator of the Central District Association for the past six years, and his tenure will end in July 2001. He is a community leader serving on the Louisville Urban League, NAACP, and Kentucky Human Rights Commission. Dr. Coleman is also a civil rights leader bringing about reconciliation between black and white Baptists and among all races and religions.

On Saturday, March 31, 2001, Dr. Coleman will be honored for his hard work and dedication as Moderator of the Central District Baptist Association, which has a membership of 147 churches.

Individuals such as Dr. Coleman play a vital role in reconciling the divisions in our community and in building the hope of a better future for each person. I am proud to bring your attention to Rev. Dr. Thurmond Coleman, and all of his achievements.

HARRIET TUBMAN, FREEDOM FIGHTER, UNION SPY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Harriet Tubman and her hard work and dedication to social justice. Harriet Tubman is credited with freeing many African-Americans from slavery. She is remembered for her work with the Underground Railroad, her life and commitment to helping others gain their freedom.

Mrs. Tubman was born a slave, in Bucktown, Maryland. The date of her birth is unsure, but it is believed to be March 10, 1820. She was born Araminta, but decided later to take on her mother’s first name instead. Starting life on a plantation, she grew up doing hard labor in the fields and suffered repeated beatings. At the age of 13, she was struck in the head by an overseer with a heavy weight that fractured her skull and subjected her to continuous blackouts.

After her owner died in 1849, Mrs. Tubman was able to escape to Philadelphia on the Underground Railroad. In 1850, the Fugitive Slave Law was passed. The law criminalized providing assistance to runaway slaves. This new law did not stop Mrs. Tubman, however, from repeatedly making trips back into the southern states where she eventually freed about 3,000 slaves, including her elderly parents using the Underground Railroad. Since she freed so many people from slavery, Harriet Tubman became known as the “Moses of her people.”

Despite these achievements, Harriet Tubman’s role as a member of the Union Army’s forces, during the Civil War, is not widely recognized. She later reported to General David Hunter at Hilton Head, South Carolina in 1863 where she worked as a nurse, scout, spy and cook for the Union Army. During the War, Harriet led a bold raid in South Carolina that freed over 800 slaves.

In 1884, after the Civil War, Harriet Tubman married John Tubman a freed slave. Four years later, her husband died leaving her to live the latter portion of her life in poverty. Nevertheless, Mrs. Tubman campaigned to raise funds for black schools. She also created the Harriet Tubman Home for Indigent Aged Negroes in her own home.

As we end our celebration of Women’s History Month, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Harriet Tubman for her hard work, extraordinarily contributions toward social justice and her service with the Union forces by supporting my legislation to posthumously award her veteran status.

HONORING REVEREND DR. THURMOND COLEMAN, SR.
OF KENTUCKY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, March 29, 2001

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Harriet Tubman and her hard work and dedication to social justice. Harriet Tubman is credited with freeing many African-Americans from slavery. She is remembered for her work with the Underground Railroad, her life and commitment to helping others gain their freedom.

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