CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

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In Memoriam: Mrs. Nola Bright, Immediate Past President, Westside Branch NAACP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Davis) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today is Equal Pay day for women. I take this time to stop and pay tribute to a woman who spent practically all of her adult life fighting in behalf of women, minorities and any others whom she felt may have been oppressed and at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder, Mrs. Nola Bright, immediate past president of the Westside Branch NAACP.

Nola Bright was born and reared in Chicago and spent the major portion of her life living in, defending and working to improve what is commonly and affectionately known as the West Side of Chicago, in the Lawndale community.

Nola Bright was a family-oriented person. She grew up in a warm family, married John Bright at an early age, and had four children. She was a fiercely dedicated mother and grandmother and was indeed a surrogate mother, mentor and role model for many younger men, women and children who looked to her for guidance and direction.

Nola Bright became a school and community activist at an early age. As she saw her children off to school, she started to work with the Chicago Youth Centers as a way of making sure that children had after-school recreation and leisure-time activities. Mrs. Bright came into her own during the mid-1960s when which was a period of great civil unrest, social change and the establishment of new structures. She was intimately immersed in all of these activities and often rose to leadership status within the groups with whom she worked.

She worked most directly with the Chicago Youth Centers, Better Boys Foundation, District 8 Education Council, Greater Lawndale Conservation Commission, Sears, YMCA, Martin Luther King Neighborhood Health Center, Lawndale Urban Progress Center and the Model Cities Program.

Nola Bright was a champion of the underdog and spent much of her life working with and on behalf of individuals and causes often considered to be the least powerful. Rarely did Nola Bright separate her compensated work from her causes. You generally could not distinguish between her job and her volunteer activity. Over the years, she held a variety of jobs, Chicago Youth Centers, Martin Luther King Neighborhood Health Center, Westside Association for Community Action's Sickle Cell Project. She even worked for me when I was a member of the Chicago City Council and president pro tem. Finally, she worked for Habitability Systems Social Service Agency from which she retired.

REGARDING THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. Jackson-Lee) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, before I make my formal remarks, let me indicate that today I filed H.R. 1336, to give citizenship to the held Chinese citizen, legal resident of the United States, professor in the United States, mother of a 5-year-old and now husband to a United States citizen held in China for now almost 2 months.

I am very pleased that this private citizenship bill is cosponsored by myself, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Hyde), the gentleman from California (Mr. Lantos), the gentlemanwoman from California (Ms. Millender-McDonald), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Pallone), the gentlemanwoman from Illinois (Ms. Schakowsky), the gentlemanwoman from California (Ms. Lee), the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. Kennedy), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Wolf).

It is a tragedy when families are separated. If we can do anything to enhance the role of the United States of America to promote peace and democracy and to ease the pain of a family that has now been separated, distressed...