

1992

TRIBUTE TO "JESSE" JAMES
LEIJA
HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a San Antonio hometown hero.

The "sweet science," as the sport of boxing has been called, has provided an arena for epic battles that have produced larger than life prize-fight champions who have, throughout the sport's history, captivated the national attention.

Marciano, Ali, Leonard, De La Hoya—all of them are synonymous with boxing and all are well-known champions. However, for every prize-fighter who captured a title and the national spotlight, there is one whose career has not received the attention and accolades it truly deserves.

"Jesse" James Leija of San Antonio is one of those champions, and his career and commitment to succeeding deserves to be commemorated.

Best known to fans of the sport. "Jesse" James' intense talent in the ring resulted in some of the best boxing matches in recent history. And in a sport that has seen it's share of controversial personas, "Jesse" James always maintained a dignity and respect for his opponent, the sport and the fans.

While many boxing careers last only a few years, "Jesse" James' recently announced that he is retiring after an astonishing seven-teen years in the ring.

The sport will undoubtedly miss him.

"Jesse" James had a truly impressive career. Having faced and overcome seemingly insurmountable odds on his way to achieving great success, the story of "Jesse" James Leija is one that can inspire anyone, in or out of the ring.

Born and raised on the South Side of San Antonio, James is a proud graduate of Harlandale High School where being told he was too small to play football drove him in the direction of an even more challenging sport—boxing.

His parents, including his former pro-fighter father, would not allow him to box until he graduated from high school. So compared to most aspiring boxers, James got a late start first entering the ring at the age of 22. He quickly won his first fifteen fights and ultimately compiled an impressive 23 win and 5 loss amateur record. He won a San Antonio Golden Gloves title, won the 1988 Western Olympic Trials and competed in the 1988 Olympic Trials.

In 1994, Leija became only the third San Antonio boxer to win a world title when he defeated the legendary Ghana warrior and Hall of Famer, Azumah Nelson, for the WBC World Super Featherweight Championship.

"Jesse" James ultimately fought in nine world championship fights winning the IBA World Lightweight Championship, the NABF Featherweight Championship, and on two separate occasions, the NABF Lightweight Cham-
pionship.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

After 17 years, Leija ended his professional career of 57 matches with a record of 47 wins, including 19 by knock-out, 7 losses, 2 draws, and 1 no-contest.

All this despite having been told early on that he was too small and not strong enough to be a success in the ring.

As impressive and admirable as his career was, James' dedication to his community is even more so. He founded the "Jesse" James Leija Youth Foundation, and has long supported the Boys' and Girls' Club of San Antonio and the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Boxing Program. He has also supported numerous education programs, including a child daycare center to allow teenage mothers to complete their education.

Beyond being a great boxer, "Jesse" James Leija has been a truly great citizen, and we in San Antonio are lucky to have him.

To the people of San Antonio "Jesse" James Leija is always a winner and he will forever be their Champion.

TRIBUTE TO ANDREW KEENAN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a young man whose life was cut tragically short. Andrew Keenan, a resident of Ness City, Kansas, a former intern in my congressional office and a law student at the University of Kansas, passed away on January 31, at the age of 26, following a protracted battle with brain cancer. I would like to express my profound sorrow at the death of Andrew Keenan and offer my deepest sympathies to his fiancée, Erica Brown, his family, and friends.

Andy was a man of exemplary character, a character demonstrated by his religious faith, his determination to succeed, and his uncommon courage in the face of hardship and illness. He was also a man of great industriousness, ambition, and amiability, qualities which made him respected and well-liked by everyone who knew him. While interning in my Washington, DC, office, he assisted my legislative director with issues involving financial services, taxation and telecommunications.

Andy was also possessed a great sense of empathy and the heart of a true humanitarian. His efforts to aid the unfortunate took many forms, including the creation of a Web site dedicated to raising money for cancer research, providing food and clothing to a young girl in the Philippines through an adoption program, and, recently, donating money to victims of the tsunami. The fact that he always felt compassion for people who were suffering, even while suffering himself, is a testament to the kind of benevolent and caring of person he was.

As University of Kansas law professor Mike Hoefflich wrote recently in the Lawrence Journal-World, "For almost two years now, Andy has fought and fought and fought. He has re-

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fused to give up. In spite of his illness, his pain, his constant treatments, he has maintained his courage and his determination." I believe that this quotation exemplifies how the enduring strength and bravery of Andrew Keenan serves as an inspiration to all of us who were touched by his life, and encourages us all to lead a more thoughtful, more courageous existence.

MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT
CRIMES REVISION ACT OF 2005

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced H.R. 664, the Military Sexual Assault Crimes Revision Act of 2005. This bill would repeal Article 120 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and replace it with an improved sexual abuse statute patterned on 18 U.S.C. §§2241–2247. I introduced an identical bill last year, H.R. 4709, which was offered during mark-up of the defense authorization bill.

Although the legislation was not included in the final authorizing bill last year, a provision was included requiring the Secretary of Defense to provide the House and Senate Armed Services Committee, by March 1, 2005, a proposal for changes regarding sexual offenses in the UCMJ and the rationale for the changes. The language also "strongly encourages DoD to closely align the UCMJ's language on sexual assault law with the appropriate section of the federal criminal code." I am reintroducing this legislation to send a strong message to the DoD that Congress is serious about updating the military's sexual assault statute, and that the changes are expected to incorporate the U.S. federal code.

This legislation would help prosecutors, protect victims, and promote good order and discipline in the Armed Forces. It offers a graduated array of offenses that more precisely define nonconsensual sex crimes. The proposed provisions expand the scope of sex acts that can constitute sexual abuse. They afford increased protection for victims by emphasizing acts of the perpetrator rather than the reaction of the victim during an assault. This legislation expressly provides for cases involving voluntary and involuntary intoxication of the victim, which are common fact patterns in military sexual assault cases. Finally, it criminalizes sexual extortion and other forms of coercing sex from subordinates and fellow service men and women in a way that will help commanders to maintain good order and discipline in the armed forces.

By undertaking this critical revision to the UCMJ, we will demonstrate that the Department of Defense and Congress are committed to reducing the incidence of sexual assault within the Armed Forces, and bringing justice to the victims.

COMMENDING WINTHROP UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL FOR RECEIVING THIS YEAR'S DISTINGUISHED HOSPITAL AWARD FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Winthrop University Hospital, which is located in my home town of Mineola, NY, for receiving this year's Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence.

Each year HealthGrades, an independent national healthcare quality ratings company, rates the quality of our Nation's hospitals and recognizes hospitals in the top tier for their performance. The Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence is based on clinical outcomes and quality data collected by the Federal government through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Winthrop University Hospital has received this award and has ranked among the top 5 percent of all acute-care hospitals in the country for overall clinical excellence two years in a row. Both Winthrop's cardiac and stroke treatment services were specifically recognized for providing outstanding care. In addition, Winthrop received a 5-star rating for their treatment of pneumonia, was rated "Best in Area" for their Pulmonary Services and ranked among the top five percent in the Nation for their Gastrointestinal Medical Services.

As a nurse for over thirty years before being elected to Congress, I know the difference superior medical care makes for a patient in the treatment and recovery process. Having access to quality medical services can mean the difference between life and death.

I am proud that such a high quality medical facility is located in my community, and I thank Winthrop and its talented staff for their dedication and commitment to providing patients and families with such outstanding care.

COMMENDING THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION AND THE GO RED FOR WOMEN CAMPAIGN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest appreciation to the American Heart Association and its national Go Red for Women campaign and for raising public awareness of cardiovascular disease, which is the number-one killer of women in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of cardiovascular disease in the United States is truly shocking, as heart disease and stroke claim the lives of nearly 500,000 women each year. This number accounts for 43 percent of all female deaths annually, which is more than the next seven causes of death combined and nearly twice as many as all forms of cancer. In addition, nearly eight million American women are

currently living with heart disease, 35 percent of those women being the age of 45 or older.

Obviously, this is an issue that deserves the attention of not only health care professionals and policymakers, but the general public as well, and the American Heart Association should be commended for its efforts to bring the issue of cardiovascular disease to the forefront. The Go Red for Women campaign has raised public awareness and continues to provide women with the education and tools necessary to overcome this terrible disease. By empowering women to take control of their health through exercise, healthy eating, and careful monitoring of their blood pressure and cholesterol, the AHA has made it possible for them to reduce their risk of heart disease and live long, healthy lives.

Mr. Speaker, I again wish to express my deepest appreciation to the American Heart Association for its efforts to educate the people of the United States about the dangers of cardiovascular disease.

RECOGNIZING THE DENTON COUNTY NAACP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the 96th Anniversary since the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) it gives me great honor to recognize the Denton County NAACP for their continued support of equality and justice in the 26th District of Texas. I also congratulate the Denton County NAACP on the election of their new officers: President, Catherine Bell; Vice President, Vanessa Sims; Secretary, Brenda Crawford; Treasurer, Carol Hinkle-Kuykendahl; Assistant Secretary, Cassandra Berry; and Assistant Treasurer, Tonya Demerson.

It is the historic fight of the NAACP for civil, political and social equality which has significantly advanced the causes of democracy and freedom, and continues to improve the status of African Americans in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this week in Congress I have voted in favor of legislation honoring the Tuskegee Airmen and supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. I can think of no better time to pay tribute to the rich history of the NAACP and to congratulate the local chapter on the installment of their new officers.

TRIBUTE TO MT. TABOR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH—CELEBRATING 104 YEARS OF FAITH AND GOOD WORKS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations to my pastor Reverend Dr.

George Edward McRae and my fellow congregants as together we celebrate the 104th Anniversary of Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church this Sunday, February 13, 2005.

Located in the heart of Miami's Liberty City at 1701 N.W. 66th Street, this citadel of faith has been and continues to be a beacon of comfort and hope in our community.

Under the leadership of our beloved pastor, Rev. Dr. McRae, Mt. Tabor has taken an active and progressive role in directly addressing the temporal, as well as spiritual needs of our neighbors. I want to commend him for his tireless apostolate in ministering to those afflicted with the HIV/AIDS virus, to those who are imprisoned, to the hungry, and to all those seeking the love and solace of a Church that seeks to affirm and confirm their dignity as God's children.

As we come together in thanks and reflection on our Church's 104 years of ministry, this historic anniversary takes on a meaning much greater than the passage of time, for Mt. Tabor Missionary Baptist Church has met the spiritual needs of thousands of people who came before us, and through the grace of God will continue to do so for another century to come. It is a magnificent legacy we will celebrate.

And so I proudly join my fellow church members in celebrating 104 years of faith and good works, of caring of one another, and reaching through good works to those least able to fend for themselves.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND ITS 2005 THEME—THE NIAGARA MOVEMENT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2005 theme—the Niagara Movement. Fitting with this theme which honors the first African American meeting held to end racial discrimination, I would like to recognize the struggles and achievements of African Americans in the steelworker union movement who faced daunting challenges, but whose lives were forces for change.

Over the last century, African American industrial history has broken through significant barriers. However, the struggle for equal rights and protections faced numerous challenges during this time. The modern struggle for access to equal rights, protections, and work began in 1892 with the Homestead Strike, when African American workers were brought in on trains, unaware of their destination, to break the strike. This marked the advent of the northward migration of African American fieldworkers to the mills of the North.

Though African Americans would increasingly join the steel mills, they faced discrimination and limited opportunities once they arrived. This, despite the increased strength and numbers the African American community provided the labor movement, particularly during