

where his career began, in the mountains of Preston County.

The first images he captured were the breathtaking beauty of the countryside. Soon he focused his lens on the people. He gave farm families pictures of their children in exchange for vegetables from their gardens.

One day Eleanor Roosevelt stopped in Aurora for lunch. She was on a trip to Arthurdale, a New Deal Homestead community that she had taken under her wing. The First Lady bought a few of the postcards Volkmar had made. The real profit was not the price she paid, rather, it was the encouragement that Volkmar felt.

He was inspired to come back to Washington to pursue a professional career, and what an amazing career it has been.

I am sure that many of my colleagues have been dazzled by his book, "Washington by Night." It gives a dramatically different view of the city's best known landmarks. Even today, more than 60 years after he captured those images, they still enhance our sense of wonder.

The same is certainly true of Volkmar's long and distinguished career with the National Geographic. From the Himalayas to Newfoundland, his work gave us rich new perspectives, and new understanding, of the world around us. And that is what makes him such a compelling artist. His keen eye, his technical skill, his respectful nature, his gracious manner, all of these things are evident in every photograph he takes.

Of course I have a special affinity for his award-winning work in West Virginia, and I am always proud to tell people that Volkmar and his wife, Viola, consider Aurora to be their home and are active in the local historical society.

The Wentzels recently celebrated his 90th birthday at their Washington residence. Tomorrow's reception will allow his friends and admirers to mark the happy occasion and to salute the work of this outstanding talent and true gentleman.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBERS AS COSPONSORS OF H.R. 227

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDÉE), the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), and the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) be removed as cosponsors of H.R. 227. I am the sponsor of H.R. 227, and their names were added in error.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to be able to join my colleagues who are here on the floor and will be presenting a Special Order in tribute to black history. I know my colleagues will begin an hour in just a few minutes, and I want to add to their offering this afternoon by sharing the importance of acknowledging this month with something a little bit different.

I am glad that through the calendar year we give an opportunity to be able to recognize the richness of the diversity of Americans. We are in fact a mosaic, not necessarily a melting pot, and we have many months to be able to honor so many different groups. And although this month has been designated as Black History Month, might I say that I look forward to the day that we stand as Americans and we are enriched by all of our cultures and that we respect them throughout the year, and that our classes throughout America are filled with anecdotal stories about all of the pioneers who came to this country, some of us quite differently.

I believe that Black History Month has been established primarily because, of course, the ancestors of those of us who are African Americans came first to this Nation in the bottom of the belly of a slave boat. But through that journey, that dark passage, we came to this Nation recognizing that its very tenets represented our ideals, and that is of opportunity, of sharing, of giving, of excellence.

So today I cite for our colleagues the importance of Black History Month, to be able to share those heroes. I may call a very limited list, because to call the whole roll would be enormous. I know they are familiar names, such as W. E. B. Dubois, George Washington Carver, or Sojourner Truth, the suffragette who may have been left unknown and unexpressed, but we know of her great emancipation work and her work on behalf of women, giving them the opportunity to work.

Harriet Tubman was known as General Moses, who helped to bring slaves through a free America. George White was the last African American to serve in the United States Congress in 1901 when he was redrawn out of this House through redistricting. He stood on the floor of the House and he said, "Like a phoenix, the Negro will rise."

General Chappie James during World War II showed himself to be a proud American, fighting against the forces of evil. The Tuskegee Airmen, which we honored just a few weeks ago. So many.

Then, of course, we bring ourselves to the civil rights movement. And who

does not know the name of Rosa Parks, someone who was willing to sit down and be counted against, again, the evil of segregation. We know the names of those like Martin Luther King, but do we know Josea Williams and Andrew Young? These are great icons.

And of course we know that so many of them brought us to the point where we could stand on this floor, Dorothy Height, who is with us today, her great leadership, and C. Dolores Tucker, both women who were pioneers and willing to take a chance.

Might I share, Mr. Speaker, some of the local heroes of Houston, Texas.

Jack Yates, who founded the Bethel Baptist Church, which suffered an enormous fire just a few weeks ago. How grateful I am that that community has come together and has stood together to say that history is important, not just for African Americans or Houstonians, but for all of us.

F. M. Williams. His father had a school named for him, M. C. Williams. We thank him for the spiritual leadership and being able to be concerned about education.

Christie Adair, Moses Leroy, Zollie Scales are all great heroes in our community who passed on, but Beulah Shepard, who remains in her early eighties, is someone who believed that just one single vote could make a difference, and went throughout the community registering people to vote and empowering them. She was a political leader. Unelected, but yet a leader in our community.

So many stand as heroes. Esther Williams. She was one of the early precinct judges and a dear friend. She was always in the political organizational aspect of our leadership, and she did it to open the doors for others.

Our first judges, like Henry Doyle; and certainly some of our attorneys, like attorney Plummer and attorney Whitcliff; or our early doctors, like John B. Coleman. So many. Dr. E. A. Lord and many others who have preceded the Perrys, Dr. and Mrs. Perry.

So I list these names not because they asked to be listed, but because this month is extremely important in recognizing the fullness of America and the diversity of America and our willingness to acknowledge them by this month. Let us always be reminded that our brilliance, our greatness is because we can stand under one flag, differently but yet united.

I go to my seat, Mr. Speaker, challenging the City of Houston and our school district, the Houston Independent School District, to cherish that history and ask and plead with them not to close Jack Yates High School, Kashmir High School, and Sam Houston High School because our history is so important.