

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO  
JOSEPH C. THOMAS

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, throughout the month of February, I would like to recognize outstanding African Americans of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi, and their contribution to Black History. The 23 counties of the 2nd District are well represented from both a local and national perspective.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." In fact, black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a presence in our history books.

Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize Senator Joseph C. Thomas of Yazoo County. Senator Thomas is a graduate of Jackson State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration. He is also a graduate of the Mississippi School of Banking at the University of Mississippi. He is retired as Vice President from AmSouth National Bank after 30 years of service. He has served as the National Treasurer and Executive Vice President of the Friends Amistad, a national organization in support of the Amistad Research Center in New Orleans, LA.

Senator Thomas currently serves as board member and chairman of the management committee of the Yazoo County Fair and Civic League, Inc. He served as Chairman of the Policy Council of the American Public Power Association (APPA), which represents about 2,000 not-for-profits, community-owned electric utilities. He is the past president of the Yazoo City Municipal School Board and has been a member of the Mississippi Real Estate Appraisal Board. He was selected by the Mississippi Economic Council as one of the outstanding young men under 35 in 1977. Senator Thomas received the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Award (NAFEO) in 1997. Senator Thomas received the American Public Power Association's Spence Vanderlin Public Official Award in 1997 in Toronto Canada.

Senator Thomas loves history and has served as Chairman of the Oakes African American Cultural Center since it started in 1992. Senator Thomas is considered to be a noted historian on the subject of African-American history in Mississippi. In 2003, he won the position of Senator of District 21 for the State of Mississippi. He is serving on the Finance, Insurance, Banking Economic Development & Tourism, Education and Judiciary B Committees. Senator Thomas is married to the former Elizabeth Wilburn of Benton, Mississippi and they are the proud parents of three children, Joseph Jr., Kirk and Whitney.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
MCKING ALANIS

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated service of McKing Alanis. A native of the Philippines, Mr. Alanis rose through adversity to humbly serve in the United States Navy for 29 years and six months, and has devoted the past 14 years to my staff.

McKing rose from a raw recruit in the Navy, to the rank of Senior Chief with a lithographers rating. This was particularly difficult because at the time Filipinos were only allowed to serve in the Navy as stewards or in the kitchen. Mac was the outstanding recruit when he graduated from Navy boot camp. He attended the Army Engineer School, Topography-Lithography-Graphics at Ft. Belvoir in Virginia and graduated 2nd in his class of 47. During his tenure in the Navy, McKing was champion of equal rights and equal opportunities. McKing has received numerous awards for his service in the Navy, including 21 letters of commendation.

Prior to joining the Navy, Mac was a disk jockey and radio personality in Naga City, Philippines. In 1965, he used the talent he developed in the Philippines to become a newscaster in his Navy off-time at AFRTS-TV in Kodiak, Alaska.

McKing's involvement with the Filipino community in San Diego includes service as the President of the Bicol Club of San Diego County in 1979 and Public Relations Officer for the Council of Filipino American Organizations of San Diego County. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Samahan Dance Company from 2000 to 2002, and during that period was also an advisor to the Iriagueños of Southern California. Mac is the founder of the Iriga Guys Jesters, a philanthropic organization that raises funds for the poor in Iriga City. In 1997, Mac was called to Washington, D.C. to be recognized by Fil-Am Image Magazine as one of the 20 outstanding Filipinos in the United States and Canada.

For the past 14 years McKing has served as both Community and Military Liaison in the 50th Congressional District of California. One of the original members of my staff, McKing has proved vital in services helping constituents with the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and Immigration and Naturalization. McKing estimates that during his 14 years with the district office, he has helped my constituents resolve more than 4,000 cases.

Mac has dedicated his life to what he calls the 3T concept. "Time we cannot keep, talent is not permanent either, and treasure—please share it." He firmly believes that, "the only things we can really keep are those we give away."

Mr. Alanis is married to the lovely Susie Gonzaga Salcedo. They have three children, and are the proud grandparents of three grandsons. He has been a strong advocate of family values, equality, and has worked relentlessly to help the disadvantaged. He has been a valuable member of my team and will be missed greatly.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO  
HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on February 11, 2005 I attended the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center's National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Program in Houston, Texas.

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans takes place each year during the week of February 14 to honor the more than 98,000 veterans of the U.S. Armed Services who are cared for every day in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers, outpatient clinics, and nursing homes.

At the Program, Harry E. Dearen of Houston read the following poem he wrote in October 1996 to honor our veterans:

AND THEN I CRY

[By H. Dearen]

Of the price of the days of glory. And then I cry.  
For the freedom and the story. And then I cry.  
As I think of the wars that have past. And then I cry.  
For our countries greatness, it will last. And then I cry.  
For old glory and to make things right. And then I cry.  
In the lands out over the sea. And then I cry.  
That for others they might be free. And then I cry.  
For every one that heeded the call. And then I cry.  
For those that have died for the good of all. And then I cry.

As we honor our veterans this week during the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans, I wanted to share this poem with my colleagues.

This poem pays tribute to our veterans, reminds us all of the sacrifices they made, and is a lasting reminder of what they sacrificed for.

BLACK HISTORY TRIBUTE TO  
JIMMIE HOLMAN

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

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Though scarcely documented in history books, if at all, the crucial role African Americans have played in the development of our Nation must not be overlooked.

I would like to recognize The Honorable Jimmie Holman of Quitman County. Mr. Holman is the first African-American Mayor of Marks, Mississippi. Mr. Holman was elected Mayor of the Town of Marks, Mississippi in 1987 in a special election to fill an unexpired term and was elected to a full term in the following Mayoral Election. He also holds the distinction of being the first African American Sheriff Deputy of Quitman County, MS.

In 1969 during the organizing effort of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), "Poor People Campaign-March on Washington," the Holman family opened up their home to civil rights workers, one of them Andrew "Andy" Young.

In 1968, Mr. Holman supported his family by working as a plumber at Consumer Gas Company for less than minimum wage when Andy Young and his wife Louise convinced him that he would do better working for himself. The Holman family continued to house and support their guest until they left in June of that year. Following the departure of Andy and his team, Mr. Holman declared his economic independence by becoming his own boss.

Following a four year apprenticeship under Austin Jones, a master bricklayer, Jimmie Holman built his first house. Their next venture, a discount clothing store was opened in 1985, followed by an Amoco Service station and Convenience Store. The Holman's businesses have been successful because of their appeal to all segments of Quitman County for the past twenty years. Jimmie Holman is more than a businessman and former politician; he is a citizen that supports his community.

I take great pride in recognizing and paying tribute to this outstanding African American of the 2nd Congressional District of Mississippi who deserves mention, not only in the month of February but year round.

#### TAIWAN STRAIT RELATIONS

### HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise and join my colleagues in expressing my concerns about China's proposed anti-secession law, which is highly provocative and may cause a military confrontation across the Taiwan Strait. Specifically, the proposed law assumes that China and Taiwan are now unified and that China has the right to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in sepa-

ratist activities. Ultimately, passage of this law can embolden China to legally push for unification of Taiwan by force, which is obviously, a scenario we would not like to see.

Understandably, the 23 million people of Taiwan are very upset over this proposed law, for they have lived under a full-fledged democracy, and enjoyed highest standard of freedom and human rights. Although some people might argue that any country should have the right to enact a domestic law, but if a country's freedom and well-being are endangered because of that law, then the countries who are defenders of freedom and democracy around the world, shouldn't stand aside and tolerate the situation to escalate.

I hope Chinese leaders will exercise their wisdom and not adopt this anti-secession law this March. I also urge the international community to join us to voice their disapproval of this law. Inaction by the United States and other concerned countries will send a dangerous signal to China and encourage China to escalate its political rhetoric against a democratic country.

We do not need any military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait now or ever. I encourage my colleagues to tell our Chinese friends in Beijing that they should appreciate the contributions that the Taiwanese have made to the Chinese economy. China should also know that Taiwan stands ready to discuss and negotiate any issue with China. The Taiwanese people desire a peaceful coexistence with their Chinese brethren and have no desire to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is important that the U.S maintain focus and resolve on this issue, and I encourage China to do away with the proposed anti-secession law so as to not upset the balance of peaceful relations in the region.

#### HONORING SUSAN B. ANTHONY

### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate the 185th birthday of Susan B. Anthony, I wish to honor her for her courageous effort in ensuring that all women receive the respect and dignity they truly deserve.

Susan B. Anthony was one of the greatest women advocates in history. She is known not only for her fight to gain women the right to vote, but also for her great courage in fighting for the rights of the unborn.

She was a feminist who fought tirelessly to protect the dignity of motherhood, which she believed to be an inherent right of all women.

I am proud to honor Susan B. Anthony for her dedication to preserving the precious gift of life and I hope that my colleagues will join me in promoting a true culture of life.

#### THE MURDER OF AMERICAN NUN DOROTHY STANG

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn the killing of Dorothy Stang. She was caught in the crossfire at a settlement of landless peasants established on a state-run development reserve near the town of Anapu, about 1,300 miles north of Rio de Janeiro.

On Saturday February 12, 2005, Dorothy Stang, a 74-year-old American nun, was murdered in Brazil. She was shot four times at point-blank range.

She had been working and living in the region for more than three decades. Ms. Stang was bringing the word of God to the poor and downtrodden, while championing the environmental and human rights of Brazil's impoverished and landless peasants. She had spent decades fighting illegal loggers and ranchers in the jungle.

Tragically, nine days before her death, Dorothy Stang warned Brazil's Human Rights Minister that she and farmers faced constant death threats and needed protection. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has launched a federal investigation into the case and called a special cabinet meeting.

Dozens of land activists are killed each year in Brazil as they confront militias armed and paid by landowners. Few cases are solved in rural areas, where local police forces are often allied with the landowners.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the government of Brazil to work toward a permanent end to the violence and to disarm and disband all illicit armed militia. I call upon the government of Brazil to implement judicial and police reforms to stem the rising violence, and take immediate measures to protect human rights defenders and land activists from death threats.

President Lula's investigation into this case must be transparent and the perpetrators of this murder must be brought to justice.

#### CHINA'S PROPOSED "ANTI- SECESSION LAW"

### HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 17, 2005*

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, after Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian was elected to a second term last March, he has attempted to reach out to China on many occasions in hopes that cross-Strait relations could be improved. Unfortunately, China has not responded positively to Chen's many goodwill gestures. The massive Chinese military build-up along the coast continues, China's bellicose rhetoric continues, and China is now planning to enact an "anti-secession (or anti-separation) law" aimed specifically at Taiwan. Understandably, the Taiwanese people have been reacting to this proposed law with alarm. If Chinese leaders persist in passing this law,