June 21, 2005

African heritage. The inspirational teachings of the Black leaders in the 1920s were a springboard for the success in securing civil liberties for Blacks worldwide. We cannot speak about African liberation without economic liberation. The economic life of the greatest majority of South Africa and a towering spirit of our times. I refer to Nelson Mandela, who for decades was engaged in resistance to the evil system, apartheid. Like Mahatma Gandhi, his unwavering resolve made it possible for a nation to throw off the shackles of oppression. He is a living lend for human compassion and capacity to forgive. He reminds us of another truly great African who lived many centuries ago—St. Augustine.

1. for one, am proud of the contributions of Jamaica and the Caribbean region to the struggle against colonialism and apartheid in Africa through the works of our writers, musicians, orators, and artists. The music of Bob Marley, of Peter Tosh, and Jimmy Cliff has inspired Africans and non-Africans alike to not only recognize the contribution of the struggle for liberation and social justice but to champion the international movements against colonialism and neo-colonialism. Songs such as “War” and “Zimbabwe” inspired freedom fighters and became anthems for change.

Nor should we overlook the refusal of our outstanding cricketers, Clive Lloyd, Sir Vivian Richards, Michael Holding and their colleagues who refused the lure of money to play in racist South Africa.

The year 1994 represented the culmination of the movement towards the liberation in Africa. The victory over apartheid was the outcome of the activist struggle of those who were opposed to the domination of the global anti-apartheid movement was critical to this outcome. Jamaica is proud of having sustained its commitment to the struggle against apartheid. Under Norman Manley, we were second only to India in declaring sanctions against South African products. Jamaicans of my generation could not bring ourselves to consume any product from a country that oppressed. The contribution of the global anti-apartheid movement was critical to this outcome. Jamaicans are proud of having sustained its commitment to the struggle against apartheid.

The hegemony of western nations has, however, over the years sparked conflicts in Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. Within the Caribbean context, Haiti, the first independent Black nation, has experienced 200 years of under-development. Small wonder that the message of peace, solidarity and redemption is of much significance today, in this, the 21st century, as in any other period in recent history.

In addition to the adverse effects of globalization, with its trade constraints and rapidly changing information and communications technology, the survival of our countries is further threatened by the scourge of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Notably, sub-Sahara Africa is the region most affected with the disease, followed by the Caribbean. Our womenfolk are at great risk and our orphanages threaten to crumble by the Caribbean. Our womenfolk are at great risk and our orphanages threaten to crumble.

There are those of us in political life who have never concealed our unwavering commitment to equity and social justice. We were, and are, entrenched and within our domestic heretics. For this, we were once branded ideological heretics.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

—PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, on Friday June 17, 2005 I was unavoidably delayed and thus missed rollcall votes Nos. 282, 281, 280, 279, 278, 277, 276, 275, 274. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on Nos. 282, 280, 279, 278, 277, 276, 275, 274 and “nay” on No. 281.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I encountered plane difficulties Monday, June 20, 2005, that caused me to miss floor votes regarding H.R. 2863, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2006. Since this bill is one that I believe is vital to our Nation, I am very dismayed that I was unable to participate. I would have voted “nay” on the Obey, Doggett, Velázquez, and DeFazio Amendments. Additionally, I would have voted “yea” on the Hunter Amendment and for final passage of H.R. 2863.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOO LOCKS

HON. BART STUPAK
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a historic symbol of exploration and commerce in my district. On Friday, June 24th the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan will kick-off a summer of activities to honor the 150th Anniversary of the Soo Locks.

Hundred of years ago settlers established the oldest city in Michigan and third oldest in the United States, Sault Ste. Marie, named by French explorer Father Jacques Marquette in honor of the Virgin Mary. The area, rich with fur trading and fishing, was difficult to travel by water because of the rapids or “Bawating” as referred to by the local Anishnabe Native American Tribe. As a voyager entered the St. Mary’s River to sail from Lake Superior to Lake Huron the rapids dropped 21 feet and was too treacherous to traverse. Voyagers, explorers and tradesman were forced to portage their canoes, unloading and reloading their cargo via the land trail along side the rapids to complete their travels.

The Northwest Fur Company engineered the first locks on the Canadian side of Sault Ste. Marie in the late 1700’s. The system involved moving a ship into a chamber of water, then raising or lowering the ship to a new level of water to be even with the body of water they wished to traverse. This first set of locks was unfortunately destroyed in the War of 1812 and travelers were once again forced to carry their cargo by land. The present day lock system, mimicking the original design, was developed by civil engineers in 1850.

In 1852, Congress offered a large public land deal as payment to any company that would construct the new lock designed to continue commerce between the lakes. The Fairbanks, Sheep & Company agreed to the proposal in 1853 because of its mining interests in the Upper Peninsula. On May 31st 1855, two 350 foot long locks were given to the State of Michigan. The State instituted a small toll in the early years of the lock for maintenance but in 1877, when commerce exceeded Illinois, the capabiliy of the locks, the State recognized that a new set of locks was necessary.

In 1881, the locks were transferred to the Federal government under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Since then, the Soo Locks have operated toll-free with two canals and four locks that included the Davis, Poe, MacArthur and Sabin locks.

The value of the Soo Locks was never fully appreciated until World War 11. As the United States was attacked, it became necessary for the United States to build the “arsenal of democracy.” To build the world’s arsenal, America needed steel for its ships, guns, tanks and vehicles. In order to make that steel, America needed to mine the iron ore rich regions of Minnesota and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. The only practical way to move the massive volume and weight of iron ore was by ship from Lake Superior, through the Soo Locks, down the St. Mary’s River and out to Lake Huron, Michigan, Ontario, and Erie to the steel mills of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

As the war’s demand for iron ore was at its greatest, Congress authorized a new Soo Lock capable of handling the 640 foot ships loaded with up to 17,500 tons of iron ore during World War II. In 1965, Congress authorized a new 1000 foot Super Lock. As with all the locks, the new lock was named after the engineer in charge of the Soo Lock, General Orlando M. Poe, also known for his eight lighthouses that grace Michigan’s waterways.

The Poe Lock is the largest lock in the Western Hemisphere and the busiest lock in the world. Each year, 80 to 90 million tons of freight move through the Soo Locks. Still today, more than 70 percent of the raw materials needed to make steel pass through the locks, as does low sulfur coal and grain exports. The Great Lakes shipping industry helps sustain thousands of jobs in mining, construction, steel making and a multitude of support industries. In fact, shipping is so important to our economy that just one 1000 foot ore boat can deliver enough iron ore to build 60,000 cars.
Currently, 2/3 of all freight is restricted to the 32 year-old Poe lock, which is the only lock capable of handling 1000 foot ore boats. Without this lock, the steel, coal and grain industries would be helpless. Recognizing this, Congress authorized construction of another “Poe” size lock in 1986. Over the last eight years, I have been proud to secure funding for preconstruction, planning, engineering and design for the new lock. Since 2003 alone, over $10 million have been secured toward the construction of this new lock. I am pleased that the States of Michigan, Illinois and Pennsylvania recognize the economic importance of this additional lock by contributing their non-Federal cost shares to the project and encourage the other Great Lakes States to join us in securing the necessary funding to build this new lock.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the historic engineering marvel we call the Soo Locks as they celebrate 150 years of exploration, commerce and trade. This engineering wonder has provided a proud past of innovation to evolve into the critical link to deliver the arsenal of democracy during world wars and the economic feasibility for the steel, coal and grain industries now and into the future.

From the Anishnabe Tribe of Native Americans to the men and women who first explored, built and operated the locks; to the City of Sault Ste. Marie and her people; to a Nation at war; to tomorrow’s commerce that flows to and from Lake Superior to the other four Great Lakes; the Soo Lock have withstood the test of time by meeting the demands of a great Nation, to traverse the “rapids” of history always opening its lock to a brighter future for America. Once again with the help of the United States Congress, I hope to continue the legacy of the Soo Locks by providing the resources to build another super lock that will ensure another successful 150 years of waterborne commerce by and through the Soo Locks located at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

COMMENDING LULA TAYLOR AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the exemplary public service of Lula Taylor, a resident of the Chautauqua County city of Jamestown, upon the occasion of her receiving the Woman of Achievement Award.

Lula Taylor graduated from Newton Central High School in Newton, North Carolina. After graduation, she attended cosmetology school and ran her own beauty shop. Lula met and married her husband Vivian, and moved to Jamestown where she attended Jamestown Community College. They have a son and a daughter and two grandchildren, Michael and Claudia.

Throughout her entire life Lula has been a woman to go against the flow and break down barriers. This is evident in her career and her social life. Lula was the first African-American woman to be hired at Proto Tool Division of Ingersoll Rand Corporation in 1964 and worked there until her retirement. She is the first African-American woman to be elected to any county legislature in New York. These two achievements have paved the way for others to follow their dreams and not give in to adversity.

Lula is one woman who never stops working for the things she believes in. She serves on the County Human Service Committee, Chautauqua County Board of Health, Chautauqua County Health Network Inc. Advisory Board, Office for the Aging Advisory Board, County Home Advisory Board, Safe House Committee, and is an AIDS Awareness Advocate.

When it comes to her heritage Lula works tirelessly. She has created numerous displays on African-American History, led tours for the Underground Railroad Tableau Steering Committee, Chautauqua County Black History Committee, and is a founder of the Ebony Task Force. She is a member of the Blackwell Chapel, A.M.E. Zion Church. In the 1980’s she stood up against adversity to coach and manage the Love School girls’ softball team. This allowed girls to work as a team in a multi-ethnic situation. In 1985, she was instrumental in planning the first Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. Since then the celebration has grown considerably each year. On May 13, 2003, Lula and her husband Vivian were recognized by the New York State Democratic Rural Training Forum as the 2004 Chautauqua Democrats of the Year.

Lula is a woman of very strong conviction. Whenever there is something negative rearing its ugly head she is the first one to take a stand and put a positive spin on it. A perfect example of this was when the Nushawn Williams case sent Jamestown into a hot bed of negative publicity. Lula took that and turned it into a positive educational experience for everyone. She has worked so hard to lessen any racial tensions that exist. She has successfully brought together a very multiethnic team of people in the school and has let her own voice be heard loudly in a predominantly Swedish and Italian community. Lula Taylor is an amazing woman and I am proud, Mr. Speaker, to have an opportunity to honor her today.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF U.S. MARINE STAFF SERGEANT DAN PRIESTLY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH
OF OHIO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of United States Marine Sergeant Dan Priestly, and as a Member of the Committee on Armed Services, I ask the United States House of Representatives to extend to him a warm welcome home. Sergeant Priestly’s steadfast courage, immense sacrifice, and dedicated service to our country will be remembered always by our community and our Nation. I wish Sergeant Dan Priestly, his wife Lisa Priestly and their children Garrett and Tyler, an abundance of health, happiness and peace, today and in the future.

HONORING LOCAL 34 FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES, UNITE-HERE INTERNATIONAL UNION AS THEY CELEBRATE THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THEIR FIRST CONTRACT

HON. ROSA L. DELAUR0
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Ms. DELAUNO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the many who have gathered to join Local 34 Federation of University Employees, UNITE-HERE International Union as they celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the signing of their first contract with Yale University. Two decades after their inception, Local 34 continues to provide a strong voice to the clerical workers, financial assistants, research technicians, and medical assistants they represent.

In the early nineteen eighties, across America there was a change in what was the traditional role of women in the workplace. Increasingly, women were not simply working for a little extra money, but were becoming career women—working to support themselves and their families. As this transition moved forward, clerical and technical employees at Yale University—positions a majority of which were held by women—began to meet and discuss possible opportunities for them to obtain such daring goals as equal pay for equal work and the availability of a pension plan that would be meaningful in their retirement. They began to look for similar employment protections that were offered to other employees at Yale University. It was from these early discussions that the Local 34 was organized.

With assistance from their brethren at Local 35, which represents the service and maintenance workers at the University, and Local 217, who represent hotel and restaurant workers in Connecticut and Rhode Island, the effort to establish Local 34 began. In May of 1983, clerical and technical workers at Yale took the historic step of voting to form Local 34. Their mission, as it still stands today, was simple.