

HONORING THE MEMORY OF SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER DWAYNE REEVES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a courageous and dedicated New Jersey law enforcement professional, Special Police Officer Dwayne Reeves, whose tragic loss in the line of duty is being mourned by our entire community. Family, friends, supporters, and members of the extended law enforcement family will gather tomorrow as Officer Reeves is laid to rest with full honors following a funeral service at New Hope Baptist Church in Newark.

At 35 years old, Officer Reeves made a positive impact during the four years he served with the Newark, New Jersey Police Department. He was proud to serve on the newly created Newark Public School Police Force, and worked diligently in that position. Tragically, on July 18, he was struck down outside his assigned school as he was carrying out his responsibilities as a law enforcement officer. As Newark School Superintendent Marion Bolton noted, had it not been for Officer Reeves' heroic action in containing the incident, the safety of students inside the school could have been put in grave jeopardy.

Officer Reeves' career with the Newark Police Force was meaningful and filled with promise. Respected and well-liked, he earned a reputation during his four years with the force as an officer who wanted nothing more than to serve his community honorably. Officer Reeves thrived on community outreach as he also worked a second job with the Newark Housing Authority Police Unit. His loss will be deeply felt by all who knew him and worked with him.

I ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to the memory of this outstanding public servant and in offering our deepest condolences to his wife, Rahnisha Reeves; his children Ashley, K'Ya, Amaad, Amiir and Ta'ona, his moth-

er, Delois Reeves-Garvin; his father, John Jackson and his stepfather, Henry Garvin.

A TRIBUTE TO PAUL RUSESABAGINA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 25, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in light of President Bill Clinton's statement this weekend regarding responsibility for the 1994 slaughter of innocent civilians in Rwanda, I would like to recognize the extraordinary courage of Paul Rusesabagina, whom I had the distinct pleasure of meeting with just last month. Mr. Rusesabagina's story is one of true heroism and the triumph of the human spirit over evil, and I was humbled to be in the presence of such a courageous individual whose actions saved the lives of more than 1,000 people in yet another dark period in the world's history.

The Rwandan genocide of 1994 is one of the greatest tragedies of our time, and a shameful chapter in human history. In the span of only 100 days, more than 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were systematically murdered by the Rwandan military and the Interhamwe militia, with the intent to annihilate the entire Tutsi population. With the exception of a handful of peacekeepers, the international community, fully cognizant of what was happening, failed to come to a consensus to authorize a humanitarian intervention to stop the genocide. The survival of countless Rwandans was left to the conscience of courageous individuals, such as Paul Rusesabagina (who heroically took a stand in the name of humanity), and a Tutsi rebel army attacking from neighboring Uganda.

While acting as manager of the Belgian owned Hotel Mille Collines during the April-July genocide, Paul Rusesabagina provided a safe-haven for over 1,200 Tutsis and Hutus who were defenseless and almost certainly marked for death, ensuring their safety through bribes, skillful negotiation, and diplomatic persuasion of Hutu military com-

manders. A Hutu himself, Mr. Rusesabagina, through his actions, put his own life in danger, as well as those of his Tutsi wife, Tatiana, and their young children. These selfless acts of heroism not only saved hundreds of innocent human beings, but also served as a beacon of light in a time of terrible darkness. Future generations of people around the world should find inspiration in his actions, and his story to be an affirmation of the resilience of human compassion.

Mr. Rusesabagina has spent his years since the Rwandan tragedy as an ardent champion of human rights around the globe, continuing to struggle selflessly for those who are voiceless and in the most need. In fact, he recently spoke on Capitol Hill about the plight of the over 17 million refugees worldwide, bringing needed attention to this much neglected issue. Mr. Rusesabagina was the recipient of Amnesty International's Enduring Spirit award and I would like to continue to honor him through this congressional recognition.

When I met with Paul Rusesabagina, we were joined by Hassan Jallow, the chief prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. This was a truly historic meeting, bringing together a hero who struggled against tragic circumstances, with an advocate who is charged with seeking justice for victims of those same atrocities. Their interaction gave me hope in the triumph of peace and justice, and in the endurance of humanity.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Annette and I have been tireless in our mission to promote international human rights, and it was this sense of duty that led us in 1983 to create the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. The Congressional Human Rights Caucus, CHRC, is a bipartisan working group on international human rights of over 218 Members of the House of Representatives which works to promote international human rights around the world. Actions such as those of Paul Rusesabagina give us hope.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all my colleagues to join me in honoring Paul Rusesabagina, an extraordinary person who risked his life to save hundreds of others, and one who continues to devote his life to those in need.