

this nation in the 1960s. As the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights Movement, and school desegregation threatened to divide our nation, Ossie stepped forward as a champion of integration, equality, and civil rights. From the Broadway stage to the motion picture screen to the streets where injustice lay, Ossie Davis was there to demand that each and every person be treated as an equal, as a brother. With his deep voice that spoke from wisdom and experience, he would discuss the challenges to the attainment of equal treatment and fairness that is the constitutionally mandated birthright of every citizen born in this great country. He would discuss how to achieve that level of equality and would challenge those around him to aid in his crusade.

Ossie Davis was selected to be the speaker at the first annual Congressional Black Caucus dinner, I recall, because we wanted to have someone who, as a celebrity and a highly respected civil rights leader, would be both entertaining and inspirational. Ossie, in a speech that is still remembered and quoted today, set us on a course to sustain the achievements of the civil rights era and to build upon them. He exceeded our collective expectations.

Ossie was one of the noblest individuals I knew. He lived a life of dignity and pride that was so exemplary that one wanted to emulate him. In his chosen profession of acting, he was a true legend that used his position to advance positive images of the Black male and to challenge those who would accept the subjugation of an entire group based on their race. He has a history of over one hundred films, plays, television series, and other productions that cover the range of experiences of the Black male in America today.

Ossie who was always working, always raising important issues, left us in the film on which he was working at the time of his death, an inspiring story that serves as a metaphor for the struggle by African-Americans for equality of opportunity and inclusion. We are fortunate in the Harlem community to have Ossie's film to screen as a highlight of our celebration of Harlem Week.

The movie *Proud*, which was released two months after his death, is a heroic story about an all-Black crew on the U.S. warship *Mason* during World War II. Ossie and his fellow cast members tell the important story of how the War and a segregated Navy changed them. True to his nature, Ossie Davis made this experience a personal investment in the struggle for justice and equality in Black America for his audience. This movie allows Ossie one last opportunity to tell the story of Black America in this country. It is also our last opportunity to witness this great man in action.

I submit for the RECORD the press release announcing the movie and describing how it came to be made. I look forward to attending the screening of *Proud* in my community next week and encourage everyone to take time out and see this wonderful film.

[From THEentertainment, April 18, 2005]

PRESS RELEASE "PROUD"

(Written/Directed by Mary Pat Kelly)

(Produced by Ally Hilfiger)

NEW YORK.—The late Ossie Davis completes a final mission when the THEentertainment film "Proud," which will screen at the Tribeca Film Festival, April 23rd, is released by Castle Hill Productions in the New York, Washington and Los Ange-

les Magic Johnson Theatres during Memorial Day weekend.

Ossie Davis, a WWII veteran himself, not only stars in the film, but had taken a personal interest since becoming aware of this true adventure of the USS *Mason* in 1995. The men of the USS *Mason* were the only African-American sailors to take a navy warship into combat in WWII. Like Ossie Davis, they served in a segregated military, but found strength in the midst of struggles against racism from their camaraderie and pride in their own excellence.

Ossie Davis' character, Lorenzo DuFau, passes the story of his time on the *Mason* on to his grandson (Albert Jones) and two friends, who then become the 1940's sailors in a dramatic movie that depicts the events of the men's service on the USS *Mason*. As a destroyer escort, the men shepherded convoys across a perilous Atlantic infested with Nazi U-boats. They faced the storm of the century and were instrumental in saving a convoy. In spite of enduring racist incidents in a segregated Navy, they found an unexpected welcome in Northern Ireland. In "Proud" Stephen Rea plays the Derry man who welcomes them and Darnell Williams is the war correspondent, Thomas Young, who traveled with the *Mason*.

Tommy Hilfiger's attention was first attracted by the book and documentary done by Mary Pat Kelly, but he felt the story should be a dramatic feature if it were to reach a wide audience.

The events of 9/11 convinced him to finance the film himself. "We need our heroes," he said.

Hilfiger's daughter, Ally, became the producer and Mary Pat Kelly the writer/director. Ossie Davis was the first to sign on. "He blessed the movie with his presence," said Kelly and Hilfiger.

Ossie Davis attended a test screening of "Proud" in Washington, DC, with his grandson, Jamal Day, who plays trumpet on the movie score. Davis wore his USS *Mason* ball cap and told the audience he wore it all the time so interviewers would ask about it and he could tell them about the film.

Davis died of natural causes in Miami Beach, Florida on February 4, 2005. He had intended to help promote the film.

"We're pleased that those who admired Ossie Davis will see him in a role that so embodies his own life as an artist and activist," said Kelly.

#### OSSIE DAVIS (LORENZO DUFU)

As USS *Mason* veteran, Lorenzo DuFau, Ossie Davis, himself a WWII veteran, forms the head of the movie "Proud." He is the grandfather who passes the story of the "men of the *Mason*" on to his grandson and thus insures that his shipmates will live on. "I am a part of American history," he says. "Proudly we served and I want that acknowledged."

As an actor, writer, producer and director, Ossie Davis has himself shaped American history and insured that the richness of African-American experience is presented with artistry and joy.

Born in Cogdell, Georgia, Mr. Davis attended Howard University and began a career as an actor and writer with the Rose McClelland Players in Harlem in 1939. He joined the Army after Pearl Harbor and served with great distinction as a member of a medical team in West Africa.

In 1946, Mr. Davis made his Broadway debut in "Jeb," the first of many roles that included following Sydney Poitier into the lead of "Raisin in the Sun." Mr. Davis used his backstage waiting time to write "Purle Victorious" in which he starred in 1961. The artistically acclaimed play became the musi-

cal "Purle" and introduced Melba Moore and Cleavon Little.

The film career of Ossie Davis is legendary. Beginning with "No Way Out" in 1950 with Sydney Poitier, Davis has appeared in dozens of feature films from "The Cardinal," "The Hill," and "The Scalp Hunter" through recent movies such as "Dr. Doolittle," "Do the Right Thing," and "On the Bus." He directed "Cotton Comes to Harlem" in 1970 and continued to direct and produce movies and plays. Mr. Davis did not neglect television. Beginning in 1965 in the title role of "The Emperor Jones," he's given award-winning performances in "Teacher, Teacher, King," and "Miss Evers' Boys" to name a few. He's been a regular on "Evening Shade" with his friend Burt Reynolds.

Davis' partnership with his wife actress/writer Ruby Dee has produced such notable achievements as the television special "Today Is Ours," "Martin Luther King: The Dream and The Drum," "A Walk Through the 20th Century with Bill Moyers" and the series "With Ossie and Ruby."

Mr. Davis received many honors and citations including the New York Urban League Frederick Douglass Award and the NAACP Image Award. With Ruby Dee, he received The Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award and in 2002 The President's National Medal of Arts at the Kennedy Center.

Mr. Davis died of natural causes in Miami Beach, Florida on February 4, 2005.

#### SHORT SYNOPSIS

Proud is a memory piece told by WWII vet, Lorenzo DuFau (Ossie Davis). As a sailor on the USS *Mason*, he was a member of the only African American crew to take a US Warship into combat. As DuFau tells his wartime experiences to his grandson and two college friends, the young men are transformed into USS *Mason* sailors. They fight for their country, but also have to battle the racism inherent in a segregated Navy. They perform heroically and receive an unexpectedly warm welcome in Ireland. The crew was recommended for commendations in 1944, but they were never awarded. The grandchildren take up the fight, and the long overdue commendation is awarded to the surviving crew members in 1995.

THE USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005 (H.R. 3199)

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to the reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act.

We live in a world in which vital issues of national security, homeland security and intelligence gathering need to be balanced with the most fundamental freedoms and civil liberties granted to the American people by our Constitution. Terrorism is a real threat to our security, but laws that empower over zealous government officials to enter the private lives of individuals and "sneak and peak" based on suspicion is also dangerous. There was an opportunity to find a common sense, bipartisan agreement on protecting our security and our liberties that has been ignored by this legislation.

There are sixteen provisions of The USA Patriot Act that the Bush Administration proposes to make permanent without sunsets.

The bill before the House made 14 of these provisions permanent with two of the provisions scheduled to sunset in ten years.

The purpose of a sunset is to allow Congress oversight over the implementation of the law. By making these fourteen provisions permanent, Congress abdicates its responsibility to review these provisions in favor of granting power to the executive branch. As co-equal branches of government, I strongly believe Congress has a responsibility to check the power of the executive branch, not cede authority that can threaten the civil liberties of our citizens today and tomorrow.

Provisions in the Patriot Act continue to allow for government access to business records, private e-mail accounts, library reading lists and the monitoring of Internet habits. Credit card information and other private records including medical, employment and personal financial records can also be monitored. Virtually every aspect of an individual's life can come under profound scrutiny by government officials based on suspicion. This to me is frightening and to millions of honest, hardworking Americans.

Fighting terrorism, organized crime and narco-terrorism is critical to keeping our communities and families safe. The men and women in law enforcement from local, state and Federal agencies—and throughout the criminal justice and counter-terrorism systems—have my deep admiration and respect. Their job is difficult, but this legislation fails to provide additional resources to confront threats and keep our communities safe. It instead creates endless opportunities for the violation of civil liberties and the freedoms we deeply cherish as a nation.

Many people speak of sacrificing some of our freedoms in the name of security. This is a formula that empowers terrorists and encourages the very enemies of freedom. It is the wrong approach. I applaud my Republican colleagues who have joined Democrats in working for a common-sense Patriot Act that protects our security and our liberties. It is my hope that as this bill moves to conference committee with the Senate that the extremes in this legislation are tempered by a wisdom that embraces the American people's respect for privacy and desire for freedom.

#### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) 15TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MIKE ROSS**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, on July 26, 1990, President George H. W. Bush signed into law the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act. This legislation was the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was the next step in the civil rights revolution that began with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The ADA extended broad civil rights protections to America's 54 million citizens with a disability. To the over 97,000 working disabled Arkansans, this legislation has helped to establish greater options for individuals who are willing and able participants in our communities.

Among its key provisions, the ADA prohibits employers with 15 or more employees from discriminating against qualified individuals with disabilities. It calls for the removal of barriers to access for people with disabilities to a wide range of public accommodations, including restaurants, lodgings, places of entertainment, hospitals, doctors' offices, pharmacies, grocery stores, and all other retail and service establishments. It also requires the removal of barriers to access for people with disabilities to various public services, including public transportation. Additionally it mandates that telecommunications be made accessible to those with speech and hearing impairments through the use of special relay systems.

Over the last 15 years, there is no question that the ADA has ushered in significant change. One need only look around to see the signs of progress: curb cuts, wheelchair lifts, Braille signs, and assistive listening devices at movie theaters. The ADA has made transit systems and communications systems more accessible. And, perhaps most importantly, the ADA has begun to change society's attitudes toward people with disabilities.

Despite this important and widespread progress, the promise of the ADA remains unfulfilled for far too many. A major focus of the ADA, for example, was to improve employment opportunities. However, the evidence shows that there has been little change in the employment rate of people with disabilities. Only 32 percent of people of working age who have a disability are employed. And today, people with disabilities are still three times more likely to live in poverty.

Furthermore, we can still find disparities for the disabled in education, housing, and technology. It is for this reason that we need to take greater steps to ensure that the disabled community not only has access to, but is also participating in gainful elements of all programs and facets of society. I call on my fellow colleagues to join together in a bipartisan effort to find ways we can strengthen the ADA and fulfill our commitment to our disabled communities.

#### FREEDOM FOR RENE GÓMEZ MANZANO

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Rene Gómez Manzano, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Gómez Manzano is a lawyer and a distinguished member of the pro-democracy opposition in Cuba. Along with fellow Cuban patriots Martha Beatriz Roque and Felix Bonne Carcasses, he is a leader of the Assembly to Promote Civil Society. The Assembly is an umbrella organization of over 300 groups of Cubans who have asserted their independence from the totalitarian state. On May 20, 2005, the Assembly carried out a meeting of approximately 200 Cubans who publicly demonstrated their rejection of totalitarianism and their support for democracy and the rule of law in Havana. Mr. Gómez Manzano was one of the primary architects of that historic, admirable accomplishment. Accordingly, he has

been the constant target of Castro's machinery of repression. He has been harassed by the tyrant's thugs and, now, unjustly incarcerated as a political prisoner for his peaceful activities.

Eight years before, in 1997, after co-authoring the important and historic work "La Patria es de Todos" ("The Homeland Belongs to All") with Martha Beatriz Roque, Felix Bonne Carcasses and another Cuban patriot, Vladimiro Roca, Mr. Gómez Manzano was arrested by the dictatorship and sentenced to various years in the gulag. During his unjust imprisonment, and after being released, Mr. Gómez Manzano never wavered in his commitment to bring freedom, democracy and human rights to the Cuban people. Unfortunately, in an additional act of extreme and despicable repression by the dictatorship, Mr. Gómez Manzano, along with dozens of others, was arrested once again on July 22, 2005, before he could attend a peaceful demonstration in front of the French Embassy in Havana to protest the resumption of the European Union's policy of so-called engagement with the terrorist regime in Havana.

I have never had the honor of personally meeting Mr. Gómez Manzano, but I can certainly say that I know him quite well. I have spoken to him by telephone during various Congressional hearings and other public events dedicated to highlighting the suffering and oppression of the Cuban people. He is a great patriot, a man of the law, a man of peace, and an apostle of freedom for Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, Mr. Gómez Manzano languishes in the gulag because of his belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. We cannot permit the brutal treatment by a demented and murderous tyrant of a man of peace like Mr. Gómez Manzano for simply supporting freedom for his people. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Rene Gómez Manzano and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

#### ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO EXCLUDE SOLID WASTE DIS- POSAL FROM THE JURISDICTION OF THE SURFACE TRANSPOR- TATION BOARD

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 28, 2005*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be joined by a number of my New Jersey colleagues to introduce legislation that will close a glaring loophole in current law that allows railroads to brazenly flout the critical Federal, State, and local environmental protections that keep our rivers clean, our air clear, and our families healthy.

In my district, a small railroad has recently begun operation of a solid waste transfer facility for construction and demolition debris. These sites are open to the air, polluting the surrounding neighborhoods with wind-blown debris, and have extremely poor stormwater controls, if any at all, allowing rain to leach through the trash piles and into sensitive wetlands. I have seen video of these sites, which