

California, The main theme of his pontifical visit, "Towards the Light of Knowledge" is a welcome reminder of the powerful role a good education can have in promoting a better and more peaceful world. I know that my colleagues join me in recognizing His Holiness Aram I, a man who has been a strong voice for mutual understanding among religions, cultures and civilizations; a true spiritual leader committed to peace, justice, and human rights.

NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY AND THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE RYAN WHITE CARE ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support the National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness, October 15, 2005. The National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is a time of national reflection for all Americans affected by HIV/AIDS.

Residents of Brooklyn, NY disproportionately represent newly reported HIV/AIDS cases in the U.S. According to national figures, New York City Latinos account for 7 percent of the U.S. Latino population, but more than 25 percent of the Latino AIDS cases nationwide. Simply put, the City of New York has more Latinos diagnosed with AIDS than Miami and Los Angeles combined.

For nearly 25 years, tremendous strides have been made in developing comprehensive approaches to education, prevention, diagnosis and treatment for those infected by this destructive disease. Yet, far too many people are becoming infected by HIV/AIDS and are without access to quality care.

As we move toward the reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act, let the National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day provide a time to remember the significant role this key legislation has made in the decline of HIV/AIDS cases throughout this country. Future Ryan White funding levels must be adequate to respond effectively to those who desperately need the medical care, prescription drugs, and key support services these funds provide.

I urge my colleagues of both sides of the aisle to act together to reauthorize and adequately fund the Ryan White CARE Act in a timely manner as we commemorate the goals and ideals of the National Latino HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

IN HONOR OF SACRAMENTO'S PRESTIGIOUS FIRE DEPARTMENTS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to the men and women of Sacramento Fire Department's Swiftwater Rescue Team and the Sacramento Urban Search and Rescue Team for their tireless and heroic actions in response to Hurricane Katrina. Between the Sacramento Fire Department and the Sac-

ramento Metropolitan Fire District, sixty-one senior level managers, firefighters and rescuers went to the devastated areas in New Orleans and across the Gulf Coast to help those most in need. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking some of our nation's finest first responders.

At the behest of FEMA, senior leaders from both departments were called on to manage the rescue efforts that grew to include hundreds of personnel from across the country. Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Chief Rick Martinez led an Incident Support Team in Gulfport, Mississippi with Assistant Chief Mike Johnson, Dave Stoddard, Dave Odgers and Hank Linscott. Coordinating rescue efforts in New Orleans from this Incident Support Team was Assistant Chief Ed Vasques, Ford Davies and Larry Hopkins from the Sacramento Fire Department, along with Ron Pierce and Hernando Carson from the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District.

Sacramento's Swiftwater Rescue Team quickly responded to the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina by immediately flying to New Orleans to assist in the rescue efforts. Trained on the often unpredictable currents of the Sacramento and American Rivers, they quickly adapted to the situation in New Orleans. This team led by Sacramento Fire Department Assistant Chief Jay Bowdler and Battalion Chief Kristi Seargeant included Chris Costamagna, Craig Wiedenhoef, Michael Bartley, Charley Sprague, Jeff Cooke, Niko King, Brian Morr, Chris Swarbrick, Martin Cordeiro, Sage Peart, Dave Baldwin and Greg Powell.

Once on site, the team worked long days in the flooded city to rescue hundreds of people stuck on rooftops, trapped in their attics and stranded in the streets. Working in challenging and unfriendly conditions—at risk to their own health and safety—these dedicated individuals brought hope and medical care to those most in need.

Members of Sacramento's well praised and highly trained Urban Search and Rescue Team also spent over two weeks working in many severely damaged communities along the Gulf Coast—searching for survivors trapped in their homes and in other buildings where they had sought shelter from the storm. Many on this team had previously responded to crises in Oklahoma City and at the World Trade Center following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Leading this team was Dave Whitt, a Battalion Commander with the Sacramento Fire Department.

Serving on the Urban Search and Rescue Team from the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District were Dave Brown, Jeff Metzinger, Kyle Johnson, Mark Wells, Mike McGuiirk, Ron Von Allworden, Randy Gross, Mike Daw, Mike Hazlett, Jim Johnson, Chris Anaya, Bob Gorman, Randy Wootton, Tyler Wagaman, Mike Wiggington, Bob Santee and Phil Allen.

Also on this team from the Sacramento Fire Department were Erik Saari, Rick Lee, Teresa Ortenberger, Lisa Stumpf, Doug Ross, Ernie Partridge, Randy Browning, Rodney Tateishi, Micki Anacleto, Scott Williams, Ken Murray, Joe Jackson and Ed Crum. They were joined by Dr. Dennis Gardner, Blake Rothfuss and Mike Kaszpurenko who served as medical and structural support staff. Teresa Ortenberger handled the cadaver dog.

Additionally, Darren Taylor, Scott McKenney and Larry Savage of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District headed-up an Incident Lo-

gistic Management Team at the Stennis Space Center in Mississippi.

Each of these men and women left their families and loved ones in Sacramento; placing their lives on the line to come to the aid of their fellow citizens from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. And when Hurricane Rita hit land mere weeks later, many again answered the call for assistance. For their efforts, we owe them our thanks. I am truly honored to represent these renowned individuals and the fire departments they work for in Congress. Once again, I thank the women and men of the Sacramento Fire Department's Swiftwater Rescue Team and the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District's Urban Search and Rescue Team for their unwavering dedication and service to our country during this tragedy.

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOSEPH H. RAINEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to one of the most significant men in my life and in the Congressional history, John H. Rainey, the first African American to serve in the United States House of Representatives and the second Black U.S. Congressman. Without his courage, strength and will to represent the issues and concerns of the once voiceless community of freed slaves, I would not be what and who I am today.

Joseph H. Rainey was born on June 21, 1832 in Georgetown, South Carolina. His parents were both slaves, but his father, Edward, had a successful business as a barber, enabling him to purchase his family's freedom shortly after Joseph Rainey's birth. As an adult, Rainey followed his father by becoming a barber. In 1861, with the outbreak of the American Civil War, Rainey was drafted by the Confederate government to work on fortifications in Charleston, South Carolina, as well as to work as a laborer on blockade-runner ships. In 1862, he and his wife were able to escape to the West Indies. They settled in St. Georges, Bermuda, where Rainey continued to work as a barber for the duration of the war.

In 1866, following the war's end, Rainey returned to South Carolina. He quickly involved himself in politics, joining the executive committee of the state Republican Party. In 1868, he was a delegate to the convention which wrote the state's new constitution. In 1870, Rainey was elected to the State Senate of South Carolina. Later that year, he was elected to fill a vacancy in the Forty-first Congress of the United States as a Republican. This vacancy had been created when the previous incumbent, B. Franklin Whittemore, was censured by the House for corruption and subsequently re-elected, after which the House refused to seat him. Rainey was seated December 12, 1870 and was re-elected to Congress four times; he served until March 3, 1879, which made him the longest-serving black Congressman prior to William L. Dawson in the 1950s.

During his term in Congress, Rainey focused on supporting legislation to protect the