

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 527; condemning the decision of St. Denis, France, to name a street in honor of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the convicted murderer of Philadelphia Police Officer Danny Faulkner.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## HONORING NASA MISSION SPECIALIST JOAN E. HIGGINBOTHAM

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the STS-116 crew aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery on the occasion of their launch into space today. Thursday, December 7, 2006, marks the shuttle's 20th mission to the International Space Station.

Space is a frontier few Americans get to experience, and for females and members of ethnic minorities, the opportunities are especially rare.

For this reason I offer warmest congratulations to Mission Specialist Joan E. Higginbotham.

As an African American woman, Joan Higginbotham will inspire millions of girls across the nation and across the world. Ms. Higginbotham's track record of excellence has set her apart from her peers. Trained as an electrical engineer with management and space systems expertise, Ms. Higginbotham has gone down a unique path.

Both Ms. Higginbotham and I are proud members of The Links, Incorporated.

The Links, Incorporated is a not-for-profit organization of more than 10,000 women of color, committed to enhancing the quality of life in their communities. The Links founders had three primary service aims: civic, educational, and cultural. In her achievement as an astronaut, Ms. Higginbotham will light the paths of millions of women of color to achieve in areas previously inaccessible to them.

Again, warmest congratulations and best wishes to the crew, especially to Mission Specialist Joan E. Higginbotham.

## COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECEMBER 14, 1856 BIRTH OF LOUIS MARSHALL

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Louis Marshall. Louis Marshall is a staple in the Syracuse community. Born on December 14, 1856 Mr. Marshall spent his time growing up in our area. After attending Columbia Law College, Mr. Marshall returned to Syr-

acuse where he began his legal career. In time, Louis Marshall distinguished himself as one of the more prominent and sought after lawyers in New York State. Through his tireless efforts advocating civil rights and combating anti-Semitism, Louis Marshall became a legendary appellate attorney and a Constitutional scholar. Throughout his life, he tried more cases before the United States Supreme Court than any other non-governmental lawyer of his era.

Locally, Louis Marshall was heavily involved within the Syracuse community. As a longtime trustee of Syracuse University, he worked hard for the creation of the New York State College of Forestry.

His greatness was often sought after by many, landing Mr. Marshall on commissions at the State and National level.

Throughout his prestigious career, Louis Marshall always maintained close personal ties to the Syracuse community. At the time of his untimely death on September 11, 1929, Louis Marshall had already cemented his greatness. Louis Marshall will always be remembered as a hard working, loving, individual who fought diligently to protect the rights of all and fought hard so the integrity of our great Constitution would never be jeopardized.

## TRIBUTE TO BETTY DICK

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the passing of Ms. Betty Dick, who died on November 14, 2006, in Arizona. She was 84. Earlier this year, this body passed a bill I helped author to allow Betty to remain on property within Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado for the rest of her life—property that she and her late husband had enjoyed and stewarded for 25 years.

Although she did not get the chance to long enjoy this property under the rights of occupation granted under this law—the Betty Dick Residence Protection Act—she did appreciate that Congress understood her situation and passed a law to allow her to stay.

All those who got to know Betty understood her grace, her tenacity, and her love of the outdoors, this property in the Park, and especially her family, friends and neighbors. Before coming to me for help, Betty had not had experience working with Congress. Nevertheless, she was a quick study fully grasping the nuances of passing a private bill and approaching this task with patience, respect for the institution and its members, and the need to make her case. She did all of that with poise and vigor.

My involvement in this issue began when Betty met with my staff in September of 2004, at which time we learned that Betty's occupancy was based on a July, 1980 Settlement Agreement that resolved a lawsuit brought by Betty's deceased husband, Mr. Fred Dick, challenging the transaction through which the property was conveyed to the federal government. The challenge was based on the federal government ignoring Mr. Dick's right of first refusal when the property was sold to the National Park Service. Invoking this right of first

refusal, Mr. Dick asked the court to set aside the sale of the property to the United States and to allow him to repurchase it from his ex-wife.

Betty and her husband traveled to Washington to negotiate a settlement of this lawsuit and were told that the Interior Department was prepared to agree to a settlement that would allow them a "lifetime occupancy" of the property in return for their agreement to drop the lawsuit. She told me that they agreed to that, but that the formal documents to complete the settlement instead provided for continued occupancy for a term of 25 years.

According to Betty, her husband decided to accept and sign the documents because he was worn out by protracted negotiations with the National Park Service and because he felt that neither he nor his wife would live longer than 25 years. So, he did sign the Settlement Agreement—which, in addition to reducing the period of occupancy to 25 years also required him to make a lump sum payment of \$7,500 to the National Park Service. As it happened, he was right to think that he would not outlive the 25-year period, but he was wrong about his widow, Betty Dick.

I also learned that both Fred and Betty Dick had been good stewards of this property, opened their home and property for community events and the public, and had been good neighbors with the National Park Service and its employees. Betty stated to me back in September—and has stated throughout—that she is simply asking for an opportunity to remain on the property for the rest of her life.

Given this history, I asked my staff to see what we could do to help. Following initial contact with Rocky Mountain National Park after my staff's first meeting with Betty in September, I sent a letter to the Secretary of the Interior on October 12, 2004 respectfully requesting that the Park Service sit down with Betty and renegotiate the terms of the Settlement Agreement. I also suggested that in return for this renegotiation Betty offer something of value in exchange for her being able to remain on this property.

The response to that request was a letter back from the National Park Service's Intermountain Region Director indicating that the Park Service was unwilling to sit down with Betty and work out either an extension of the Settlement Agreement, or some other arrangement with her. Given this response, I determined that the National Park Service was either uninterested or unable to take administrative steps to resolve the matter fairly, and that as a result my only option was to introduce legislation that would extend the terms of the Settlement Agreement and allow Ms. Dick to stay on this property for the remainder of her life.

That bill was H.R. 432, which I introduced on January 26, 2005. The bill extended the terms of the Settlement Agreement allowing Betty to occupy the cabin on this property for as long as Betty was alive. Senator KEN SALAZAR introduced a companion version of this bill on March 3, 2005.

Following the introduction of this bill, I continued to urge the National Park Service to work out some administrative resolution. I wrote a letter to the Park Service explaining that I thought that this situation was unique and urged the National Park Service to sit down with her and work out a resolution. Still, the Park Service chose not to work this out equitably.