

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.

Betty testified for her bill before the House and Senate. I and other members of the Committee were impressed with her composure and the strength her plight. Consequently, the bill passed and was signed by the President on May 12th of this year.

I was also impressed with the outpouring of support from Betty's friends and neighbors in Grand County and the Town of Grand Lake, the communities along the western side of the Park. These people stood beside Betty as they valued her contributions to the community and the Park.

I was deeply saddened by Betty's passing. She died with her family around her.

In late August, I presented Betty with a framed copy of the signed law allowing her to stay. She was surrounded by friends and family who were gathered around the campfire just outside the cabin. All around us was the beauty and splendor of the Rocky Mountains and Betty got to enjoy her last days there secure in knowing that she had a right to enjoy and care for this property that meant so much to her and the community.

Betty opened her home to community events and was a valued member of Grand County. She was well regarded by everyone who knew her. Her cause became a labor of love and I was pleased to do what I could to help her. She will be missed by all those who were inspired by her love of life and her love of that special land along the Colorado River in the Park. I had hoped to visit her in future summers and enjoy her company and her neighbors around the campfire. She will always be there in spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleagues for helping pass the Betty Dick Residence Protection Act. Our work for Betty shows that our government can be responsive to the needs of individuals as long as we take the time to listen, learn and care. I am proud of our work for Betty and for the principle of responsive government.

REMEMBERING ROGELIO SANCHEZ UPON HIS RECENT DEATH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, today I remember a friend who passed away last week, former El Paso County Commissioner Rogelio Sanchez.

More than a friend, Rogelio was a public servant and part of the political lineage that enabled me to serve my city and my country in Congress. Born in Mexico, a valedictorian at Fort Hancock High School, a graduate of Sul Ross State University, a World War II veteran, and a teacher for many years in El Paso, Rogelio served the lower valley of El Paso, Texas, on the El Paso County Commissioner's Court for 36 years. At a time when minorities were not adequately represented in government, his leadership on Commissioner's Court and his persistent advocacy of diversity and opportunity opened the door for many Latinos to enter politics and public service.

He neutralized prejudice with his humor and easy-going manner and overcame discrimination with a record of accomplishment that includes roles in the construction of the Sun

Bowl, Trans Mountain Road, Thomason Hospital, the new country courthouse, the new county jail, and many senior citizen nutrition centers. His fingerprints on El Paso are some of our proudest structures.

In addition, his work holds a special place in my heart because he was responsible for initiating Head Start in El Paso, a Federal program the success and expansion of which ranks high among my legislative priorities.

Politics and public service in El Paso looked a lot different when Rogelio left Commissioner's Court in 1997 than when he first won election to office in 1960. The path he helped blaze ultimately led me to Congress. He was a giant for his people. He was an inspiration for me.

Nothing says more about a man, however, than his family. Rogelio was one of 10 children born to Rogelio and Petra Sanchez and the first among them to attend college. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Mary, and their three children, Michael, Albert and Maricela. In addition to knowing Rogelio as a public servant, I knew him as a family man—and that is how I will remember him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in mourning the death of Rogelio Sanchez and recognizing his legacy.

LT. LAWRENCE GARLOCK: STAFF OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, one of the noblest professions is that of a law enforcement officer. The brave men and women who wear the badge of honor do so with a desire to protect and serve their communities. Day to day, law officers are thrust into dangerous situations, keeping the honest citizens safe from the outlaws of society. They perform their jobs with little recognition or thanks from the public, just the knowledge that they are making a difference.

Although the public may not always pay law enforcement officers the recognitions they deserve, their colleagues do. One of the highest recognitions a law officer can receive is to be named Law Officer of the Year. The honor signifies that the individual law officer is best of the department—the officer whose dedication to the profession surpasses his or her colleagues. Lt. Lawrence Garlock, with the Allen County, Ohio Sheriff's Department, is one such lawman.

For Lawrence, or Larry as he is more familiarly known, serving one's community as a law enforcement officer is a family tradition. A native of Lima, Ohio, Larry grew up with the influences of his father, Joseph, a Lima Police Officer, and his Uncle Tom, an Ohio State Highway Trooper. Those role models influenced Larry to join the Allen County Sheriff's Department in 1976.

Larry is not the only second generation law officer in his family. His older brother, Greg, currently serves as Chief of the Lima Police Department, and a Department. He also has a nephew, Jason, who is a Lima Police Officer. Larry even met his wife, Catherine, while they were both deputy sheriffs. Larry has had an impressive career with the Allen County Sher-

iff's Department. From 1979 to 1983, he was assigned to work the Department's Crime Prevention Unit. While serving in this unit, Larry was promoted to Identification Officer, with the rank of Detective, in 1981. In 1990, Larry was promoted to Sergeant, and then in 2001, he saw his rank change. He was made Special Sergeant in Charge of the Crime Scene Identification Unit. The following year, he was awarded the rank of Lieutenant. After nearly 24 years of going to crime scenes, collecting evidence, and maintaining a standard of excellence in the Identification Unit, Larry was transferred to the Detective Bureau, in 2005, and placed second in command.

In October 2006, Larry celebrated 30 years with the Allen County Sheriff's Department. There are only two other individuals in the entire department who have been there longer. Larry also has had the distinction of serving under three different sheriffs. Larry's service to his profession made him the ideal recipient for the Allen County Sheriff's Office Staff Officer of the Year.

The Staff Officer of the Year is an award given out to the sheriff's deputy who has made a positive impact on the community, works to maintain the efficiency of the office, and demonstrates an outstanding measure of professionalism in his or her work. Basically the award is bestowed on the deputy who takes utmost pride and seriousness in upholding his or her position.

The award of Staff Officer of the Year was a tradition that the Sheriff's Department upheld every year. Nominations for the award were submitted to the selection committee, and then a banquet was held for the awardee. In 2002, however, the Department was facing a financial crisis. Expecting to have to layoff 37 sheriff deputies, the Sheriff cancelled the award. He could not justify spending money on an award banquet if 37 deputies were losing their jobs.

In 2006, Larry sent a letter to the Sheriff, requesting for the reinstatement of the award. In the letter, he stated that the award would benefit morale of the deputies to be honored by their peers. The Sheriff agreed, and reinstated the award. The selection committee then decided to back-award deserving deputies with the awards, from the previously missing years.

Unbeknownst to Larry, he was nominated for the 2003 Staff Officer of the Year. His nomination was due not only to his professionalism while serving as a sheriff's deputy, but for his attention to detail regarding evidence logged in with the Identification Bureau. Larry demanded that evidence be collected to the letter of the law. His demand for excellence made it nearly impossible for the evidence to be ruled inadmissible in trial. His precision to detail, his diligence, and his impeccable work ethic earned him the respect of his peers; however, they also knew that if evidence was poorly or improperly collected, they were sure to hear about it from Larry. His nominator stated that, "Larry's ethics and diligence make the Sheriff's Office look better."

When Larry's name was brought up for nomination, the selection committee voted unanimously in favor of honoring him with this award. In a true bureaucratic time frame, Larry was awarded the 2003 Staff Officer of the Year, during the beginning of November 2006, for outstanding performance of duty. He is a more than worthy recipient.

As a former judge and prosecutor, I have a great admiration and respect for our Nation's