

No. 309. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

A TRIBUTE TO DALLAS CLARK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize NFL tight-end Dallas Clark for being the recipient of the Youth Champion Award at the 2011 Humboldt County Spirit Awards.

The Humboldt County Spirit Awards were established to recognize and honor outstanding groups and individuals who have worked for the benefit of all citizens of Humboldt County, to celebrate the accomplishments and activities of our communities, to acknowledge the value of volunteerism in the county, and to have a positive impact on community spirit.

Annually included in the Spirit Awards, the Youth Champion Award is presented to an adult individual who has generously given time, talent and energy to promote and further activities for youth in the community. Dallas has not only taken the time to share his talents with the youth of Humboldt County, but as also served as an exemplary role model for the young people that he continues to inspire.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Dallas Clark and his family in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in commending Dallas for his sincere dedication to establishing a better community and wish them continued success well into the future.

HONORING THE PUERTO RICAN PHOTOGRAPHERS OF NEW YORK

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, to recognize the lasting impact of the photo-journalists of the New York City Puerto Rican Community, as recently displayed at the 2011 New York Photo Festival.

The renowned exhibition features eight photographers, who during the 1970's and 80's catalogued the daily lives and growth of their community. Frank Espada, Joe Conzo, Pablo Delano, Perla de Leon, Ricky Flores, David Gonzalez, Maximo Colon and Francisco Reyes II all became voices of the community through their art. They captured on film the diaspora that makes New York City truly special as well as the everyday pioneers whose struggles inch our nation closer to our founding ideals.

During the decades that span these photos, the Puerto Rican community in New York rose up against prejudices that prevented them from enjoying their equal rights and established a more inclusive pride in their cultural heritage. Amidst the upheaval and hardships, these photographers captured the beauty in their surroundings. Today their work reveals a unique perspective into the rise of the New York's Hispanic Community.

I have attached for the record a recent Daily News article, written by Carolina Gonzalez previewing the exhibition.

Mr. Speaker, these photographers and their work must not be forgotten. Thanks to the efforts of Adriana Teresa Letorney, people from all over the district, the city, the country can discover the visual evidence of the Puerto Rican community in transition, from outcasts to vibrant, integral parts of our great nation.

[From the New York Daily News, May 11, 2011]

EXHIBIT SHOWCASES WORK OF 8 PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO DOCUMENTED PUERTO RICAN COMMUNITY IN '70S AND '80S

(By Carolina Gonzalez)

Several people carry oversize papier-mâché puppets representing the Three Wise Men while others, dressed as shepherds, herd actual sheep. They walk into one of the arched passageways along upper Park Ave., making tracks in a dusting of snow.

This scene from Dia de Reyes is instantly recognizable to longtime New Yorkers familiar with El Barrio folkways. The image, taken in 1978 by Frank Espada, is representative of several dozen on display at a new exhibit dedicated to eight Puerto Rican photographers documenting their community.

Titled "Dia"—not after the Spanish word for "day," but after the Greek word for "across"—the show is presented at the FotoVisura Pavilion as part of the annual New York Photo Festival, which opens today at DUMBO Arts Center, 111 Front St., Brooklyn, and runs through Sunday.

The images are primarily from the 1970s and 1980s, set in the South Bronx, East Harlem and the lower East Side. Many were taken when the photographers were in their 20s.

"What I was looking for was a moment in time that the Puerto Rican community took a stand in who they were and started to develop its own voice," said curator Adriana Teresa Letorney.

"It's important for my generation to see that, how this group became a voice of a community."

Letorney, who arrived from San Juan eight years ago to study art, created FotoVisura, the organization sponsoring the show, as a service for new and veteran photographers, offering online space to show and share photographs.

"Dia" is her first show dedicated entirely to U.S.-based Puerto Rican photographers.

Some of Joe Conzo's shots document protests against the 1981 film "Fort Apache, the Bronx," which many community members saw as exploiting stereotypes of Bronx Puerto Ricans as savage criminals.

An image by Espada of young dancers from Ballet Hispanico, arms in the air and heads back, is as tender as any by Degas.

Some shots have elements burned into the popular imagination as representative of Puerto Rican communities: burned-out buildings, run-down businesses, dirty streets.

But as in several images by Pablo Delano, Perla de León, Ricky Flores and David González of happy children at play in these settings, it is clear that where others saw ruins, these shooters saw life.

For all the photographers, the work comes from a period when they began to see themselves as serious shooters with a responsibility to document their communities. But not all ended up as fine-arts photographers.

Flores continues to work in journalism. González is better known for his journalistic writing, primarily at the New York Times. De León is known as a filmmaker. Conzo's day job is as an emergency medical technician, although he continues to document hip-hop and salsa culture as a hobby.

Delano continues to work as a documentary photographer and as a professor at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. And Espada,

at 80 the oldest in the group, considers himself "half-retired."

The show is presented as a projected slide show, not a traditional exhibit of printed photos. "Having it be a slide show in a way represents how this was a transient stage in our lives, the impermanence of things," Flores said.

"Why aren't more people outside of our community aware of what happened? How did our history get swept away?"

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF WILLIE L. SMITH

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2011

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great public servant who has dedicated his entire career to protecting the public. Over the last 40 years, Chief Willie L. Smith served in the military and as a law enforcement official. His commitment to serving the public has never waned. Chief Smith is being honored for his years of service on June 18, 2011, and I am pleased to add my voice to the many who are thanking him for his lifetime of accomplishments.

Willie L. Smith was born on August 12, 1949 in Marion, South Carolina to H.B. and Ruth McCummings Smith. He was educated in the public schools of Marion County and graduated from Johnakin High School in 1967. In May 1969, he was drafted into the United States Army and reported to Fort Jackson for his advanced infantry training. After graduation, he was sent to Fort Bragg and joined the 18th Airborne Corps with B Battery, 4th Battalion, and the 73rd Field Artillery.

Chief Smith served a tour in Vietnam where he was assigned to the 1st Cavalry 2nd Brigade Aviation Platoon, the helicopter unit that flew convoy escorts and sniffer missions. He spent a year in Vietnam, and returned to his hometown in 1971. That year, he was hired at the Marion Police Department, where he worked his way up through the ranks to Lieutenant.

Smith's career then took him to the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission where he served as an ABC agent for five years. His service there earned him many honors. One of his highest commendations came for outstanding service to the South Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission for his participation in the investigation of the George Wells Gambling Organization in Berkeley County.

Mr. Smith returned home, where he was hired as Marion's Chief of Police, a position which he held for 34 years. Chief Smith earned numerous commendations, awards, and certificates. Twice he earned the Best of Marion, and was given the U.S. Marshal's Service Award, the Palmetto State Law Enforcement Award, the Marion Chamber of Commerce Award, the District 6 Service Award, and the Woodman of the World Community Service Award. He was also voted the most professional law enforcement officer in Marion in 2007, and received the City of Marion Outstanding Public Service Award given by Mayor Bobby Gerald and the City Council.

Chief Smith is married to Elista H. Smith and they have two children, Craig L. Smith