

Massachusetts Medical Center; Herbert Weissbach, Florida Atlantic University; Shin-Tson Wu, University of Central Florida.

**HONORING DOCTOR SUSAN M. WIDMAYER AND THE CHILDREN'S DIAGNOSTIC AND TREATMENT CENTER**

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Doctor Susan M. Widmayer and the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center (CDTC). I would like to honor both Susan and the CDTC on their excellent research on infant mortality and efforts to improve the lives of children and their parents.

Founded in 1983 by Dr. Widmayer, the Children's Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Broward County has made great strides in providing special care for children with disabilities and mothers with HIV. When the CDTC started, Florida had one of the worst infant mortality rates in the country. As a result, Dr. Widmayer and her staff committed to improving the health prospects of children throughout South Florida. Thanks in part to the research by the CDTC, world HIV transmission rates from mother to infant dropped from 25 percent in the mid '90s to around 3 percent today.

When no one else would care for the tens of thousands of children with impoverished parents, Dr. Widmayer answered the call. Approximately 70 percent of the Center's clients live in poverty, but that has not stopped the CDTC from providing prevention, intervention and treatment services. Every patient that walks into the CDTC is welcome, regardless of family income. By serving the specialized needs of these children, Dr. Widmayer is giving them the opportunity and care that no other institution would.

Today I would like to honor Dr. Widmayer and the Children's Diagnostic Treatment Center, and I hope that they will continue to serve our communities by improving the lives of children throughout South Florida.

**IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 66TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 2-28 MASSACRE**

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 66th commemoration of Taiwan's 2-28 Massacre. The Massacre was an anti-government uprising in Taiwan that began on February 28, 1947 and was violently suppressed by General Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) government during the following weeks. Estimates of the number of deaths are around 28,000.

In the fall of 1945, 50 years of Japanese occupation of Taiwan ended after Japan had lost World War II. In October of that year, the KMT-administered Republic of China (ROC) received administrative control of Taiwan. 16 months of KMT administration on Taiwan led

to the widespread impression among the people of Taiwan that the party was plagued by nepotism, corruption, and economic failure.

Tensions increased between the Taiwanese people and the ROC administration. The flashpoint came on February 28, 1947 when in Taipei a dispute between a female cigarette vendor and an officer of the Government's Office of Monopoly triggered civil disorder and open rebellion by the native Taiwanese against the KMT repression.

During the following weeks, Chiang's government sent troops from China to the island. The Chinese soldiers started to round up and execute a whole generation of an elite of Taiwanese lawyers, doctors, students, professors etc.

It is estimated that up to 30,000 people lost their lives during the turmoil. During the following four decades, the Chinese Nationalists continued to rule Taiwan with an iron fist under a Martial Law that would not be lifted until 1987.

Mr. Speaker, the Massacre had far reaching implications. Over the next half century, the Taiwanese democracy movement that grew out of the event helped pave the way for Taiwan's momentous transformation from a dictatorship under the Chinese Nationalists to a democracy.

In some ways, the 228 incident was Taiwan's Boston Massacre for both events functioned as the cradle of a move by both peoples to full democracy and helped galvanize the strive to independence.

Mr. Speaker, I have said it before: Freedom is not negotiable. May the lessons learned from the 2-28 Massacre continue to inspire the people of Taiwan in their struggle for freedom, full independence, international participation, and for the continued enhancement of the mutual relationship between Taiwan and the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in commemorating this important historical event.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**HON. JOE GARCIA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. GARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of Black History Month—an opportunity to celebrate the rich legacy of African-Americans and the many ways they have shaped our Nation's history.

This Black History Month, we commemorate two landmark anniversaries in American history: the 150th anniversary of Emancipation Proclamation and the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. Separated by a century, these two seminal events underscore what the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., once said—that “the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice.” Each successive generation of Americans must always do their part to build on the progress of those who came before them in order to advance the ideals of freedom and equality upon which our Nation was founded.

In South Florida, we have benefited tremendously from trailblazing African-American leaders who have broken through color barriers in order to contribute to our communities and our country.

They include individuals who served our country bravely, including Lt. Col. Eldridge Williams—one of the legendary Tuskegee airman—and Col. Brodes Hartley Jr., who has been a leading civil rights leader in South Florida committed to improving quality health care access for low-income families. And also Reverend John A. Ferguson, who after serving in the Navy helped found a small congregation in Richmond Heights that would grow to nearly 800 under his leadership and today stands at over 1400.

They include leaders like Al Dotson Sr., a pastor who served as the first elected African American president of the Orange Bowl Committee and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Florida International University, as well as Mayor Otis Wallace, who has served Florida City as mayor for over twenty-eight years and is today the longest serving elected official in the State of Florida.

I could name so many others. South Florida is a better place because of their commitment to public service and their strong leadership.

**EXPANDING THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DEFINITION OF “HOMELESS VETERAN”**

**HON. JANICE HAHN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, after over ten years of wars, we have a growing number of veterans in our nation. We have a responsibility to provide support and services for our soldiers once they return home. This includes the area of domestic violence.

Sadly, our brave soldiers who return home after protecting our nation are not immune from domestic abuse. As I've said previously, we have a duty to our veterans. However, current law fails to fully protect those veterans who have been driven from their homes because of domestic violence.

In order to reflect the modern day reality that there are more women in our military than ever before, it is important that we continue to update our laws to address emerging issues within this new trend.

The civilian definition of homelessness includes people fleeing from domestic violence. However, the current law the Department of Veterans Affairs uses to administer benefits for homeless veterans does not recognize those driven from their homes by abuse as homeless.

The full definition of “homeless” under the law includes the following: “Any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, and who have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.” However, the Department of Veterans Affairs currently defines “homeless veteran” based on an incomplete citation of the civilian homeless law.

That's why I have decided to reintroduce this bipartisan legislation with my colleague Congressman RUNYAN that would expand the Department of Veterans Affairs' definition of

"homeless veteran" to include veterans fleeing situations of domestic violence and other life threatening emergencies. As a result, this change will allow those veterans who find the courage and the means to leave their abusers the ability to access the benefits that should be available to all homeless veterans.

This legislation is a bipartisan common sense bill that adds no additional cost to the taxpayer. When we introduced this bill last Congress, we were able to garner 72 co-sponsors from both sides of the aisle. The legislation also had the support of a number of organizations including:

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

AMVETS

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

The Service Women's Action Network

The Association of the US Navy

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Veterans for Common Sense

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

By passing this bill, we will ensure that this especially vulnerable population of veterans has the chance to access benefits the Department of Veterans Affairs already provides. After fighting for our country, our veterans should never find themselves without a safe home to come back to.

#### HONORING CAPTAIN TAMIKO WRIGHT

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an active soldier, Captain Tamiko Wright.

Captain Wright is a 1996 graduate of Vicksburg High School. Upon graduating from high school, she attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Kinesiology. She also holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from Columbia Southern University and is currently seeking an additional Masters degree in Logistics.

Captain Wright is employed by the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) at Camp Shelby, Mississippi where she is the Supervisor of Production Control. Captain Wright oversees the flow of approximately 1500 work requests per month on various types of military equipment. Her additional duties at CSMS include Anti-Terrorism Officer, Assistant Safety Officer, Hazardous Waste Management Coordinator, Sexual Harassment Officer, Assistant Operating Manager and SAMS-1E training officer.

Captain Wright and her husband, Larry Wright, reside in Hattiesburg, Mississippi and have two lovely daughters: Amari, 7 years old and Lorrie, 2 years old.

Captain Wright has dedicated over 12 years to the Mississippi Army National Guard. While doing so, she has served her country in deployments for Operation Iraqi Freedom to Kuwait and served on the S1 administrative staff for Operation Clean-Up during Hurricane Katrina.

Captain Wright is presently serving as Company Commander of the 1387th Quarter Master Water Supply Company in Greenville, Mississippi. Her successful career includes: Platoon Leader for D1 367th Maintenance Company, DeKalb, Mississippi; Executive Officer, 367th Maintenance Company, Philadelphia, Mississippi; and Acting Commander of the 367th Maintenance Company.

While attending Officer Candidate School (OCS), Captain Wright was named Outstanding Graduate for excellence in academics and leadership; she also received the Erickson Award for the candidate whose overall class ranking was number 1 based on overall criteria; and the Adjutant General Award for outstanding leadership ability. She also received numerous decorations and badges: the Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Device, Mississippi Longevity Medal, Mississippi Emergency Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon and the Army Service Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring an active soldier, Captain Tamiko Wright.

#### HONORING MAJOR GENERAL CARROLL THACKSTON

#### HON. ROBERT HURT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Mr. HURT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the life of a remarkable public servant, my friend Major General Carroll Thackston, of South Boston in Virginia's 5th Congressional District.

Major General Thackston had a distinguished military career spending six years in the United States Army and 35 years in the Virginia National Guard, where he served as inspector general, commander of the 116th Support Battalion, state military personnel officer, chief of staff, assistant adjutant general, and adjutant general following his 1994 appointment by Governor George Allen.

As adjutant general, he provided encouraging words as he visited Virginia National Guard members; he helped those in need as he engaged in state emergency response operations; and he provided leadership as he oversaw the transition of Virginia National Guard operations to Fort Pickett.

The recipient of two Virginia Distinguished Service Medals, Major General Thackston will be remembered for his unwavering loyalty and true devotion to serving and protecting his fellow Virginians.

In addition to his role as a highly respected military veteran, Major General Thackston was also known for his service to his local community. He was a member of the South Boston Town Council and served as Mayor of South Boston. He also served on several boards including the Halifax County Chamber of Commerce, the Richmond and South Boston United Way, the South Boston School Board, and the YMCA.

Major General Thackston was a dear friend and he will be missed by our community. I ask

my colleagues to join me in remembering a great Virginian and a truly dedicated public servant who not only made an impression on the lives of those of us in the Fifth District, but a man who made a difference in the lives of all Virginians.

#### SHELBY COUNTY V. HOLDER (VOTING RIGHTS ACT) BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT

#### HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 28, 2013*

Ms. CLARKE. Mr. Speaker, the struggle for equality and justice through the Civil Rights Movement would not have attained its level of success without dedicated leaders such as Rosa Parks, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., and my colleague, Representative John Lewis who put their lives on the line to make it so.

So here we are, nearly 50 years after the Voting Rights Act was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Supreme Court heard *Shelby County v. Holder*, the outcome of which holds the possibility of setting our nation back centuries.

Much of the debate regarding Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act has been focused on the plight of the south and relevance to the southern perspective as it should. We are all too aware of the blood that was shed to demand basic human, racial equality. However, I stand here today in solidarity with my colleagues to lend a voice and perspective to this debate of Section 5 covered areas outside of Southern States. When most people think of Brooklyn, New York, a progressive mentality comes to mind. However, Brooklyn is likewise a Section 5 covered jurisdiction and historically "Brooklynites" have encountered voter discrimination tactics that has resulted in Kings County being subjected to the requirements of Section 5's preclearance rules and provisions.

In 1921, New York State enacted an English-only literacy test that remained on the books through the 1960s. During this time, New York State experienced a "Great Migration" from the South, as well as, from Puerto Rico and other areas of Latino descent. Most of these migrants lived in communities such as Harlem in Manhattan, the South Bronx, and the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn. At that time, New York State law included a literacy test which proved difficult, if not impossible for people with educational or language barriers. Coincidentally, there were three counties in New York City with low voter turnout in the 1968 elections, due in large part to the fact that these literacy tests could not be passed. This ultimately became the reason why jurisdictions for Section 5 preclearance were extended to specific counties in New York, in particular, Brooklyn, New York.

On May 10, 1967, a federal court ruled that the hodgepodge of gerrymandered congressional districts that snaked in and out of Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn were unconstitutional, in that they operated "to minimize or cancel out the voting strength of racial or political elements of the voting population, violated the recently passed Voting Rights Act and deprived one of the nation's largest and densest African-American communities the right to adequate representation.