CELEBRATING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND WORK OF HARLEM ACTIVIST MINNIE MOORE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 19, 2015

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life, legacy, and work of Harlem Activist Minnie Moore was a dear friend, a dynamic political activist and an excellent community service provider. She was a devout Christian that lived her life with an indomitable spirit of love and giving. She was a compassionate, hard-working, and socially responsible individual that gave several decades of service that strengthened the entire community. On June 20, at Harlem’s historic Abyssian Baptist Church, the African community gathers to memorialize Minnie Moore’s contributions to the Harlem community. Minnie Moore was born on June 28, 1921 to the late Claudia and Joseph Moore. She married her childhood sweetheart, Cleveland Moore (now deceased) and came with him to Harlem, New York from Dothan Alabama during the Great Migration north.

As a life-long resident of Harlem, New York for more than 70 years, the impact of her meritorious service spanned many decades. In the early sixties Minnie was instrumental in incorporating the New York City Housing Authority Saint Nicholas Houses first tenants’ association. Over a 10-year period she served in various offices including treasurer, vice-president and president. For many years Minnie was also a faithful member of the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church under the spiritual direction of the late Rev. William D. Gardner.

Minnie was a ‘fireball’ and worked tirelessly to support many outstanding political figures during their burgeoning years. In the 1970’s and 1980’s during the ‘War on Poverty’, Minnie Moore worked diligently and side-by-side with me, and my brothers Percy Ellis Sutton, David N. Dinkins and Basil Paterson. Other Harlem elites include The Hon. George Miller, The Hon. H. Conyers, the Hon. Fred Samuels, The Hon. Hinton Clark and The Hon. Keith L.T. Wright.

She was ecstatic at the election of President Obama and held great appreciation in knowing her years of community service and political activism must have contributed in some measure to this monumental, historical occurrence. Though she was the granddaughter of slaves and did not complete her college education, Minnie Moore touched the hearts of the entire Harlem community. Minnie established the Harriet Tubman Block Association, which provided an array of programmatic activities including educational and social services to children and families through summer youth programs; recreational activities; annual block parties; support to struggling artists; after-school homework assistance; on-going workshops on critical social and health-related issues; pantries, flea markets; and donations of holiday baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

In addition to serving as Executive Director of the Harriet Tubman Block Association, Minnie held many positions of service and leadership within the New York area including Past-Worthy Matron of the Eastern Star, Universal Chapter #7; Captain of the 127th Street Block Association, Member Officer of HARYOU; Secretary for Community Board #10: Executive President of the Park Avenue North Color Guard; Executive President of the St. Nicholas Cavalier Junior, Senior & All Girl Softball Teams; Democratic County Committee Member and an Alternate Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing our beloved Mother Minnie Moore and her contributions that has positively impacted the Harlem community and countless citizens across the Nation. Her dedication, commitment, and spiritual guidance is worthy of our Nation’s highest esteem. Minnie was a family treasure and community icon. Her kindness, generosity and wisdom will truly be missed.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 19, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the twentieth anniversary of the Coalition for Social Justice (CSJ) based in South-eastern Massachusetts.

For twenty years, the CSJ has been dedicated to the praiseworthy goal of building a grassroots movement for progressive social change, rooted in low-income communities and communities of color that have been excluded from the economic benefits of the current system.

The CSJ has a dual focus: to recruit and develop its own leaders from low income backgrounds; and to organize effective campaigns to address the economic survival issues that low-income communities and communities of color face. CSJ’s agenda includes: funding essential community services through progressive taxes, worker’s rights, housing, health care, education, welfare, criminal justice reform, immigrant rights, and environmental justice.

CSJ has actively participated in advocating for the needs of working-class families. For example, in 2014 CSJ helped increase minimum wage in Massachusetts, and also helped earn sick time for all workers in Massachusetts. In 2011, CSJ helped to restore the children’s clothing allowance of $150 per year per child so children were able to start the school year with suitable clothing. These examples represent only a small fraction of CSJ’s commendable work.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the CSJ on its twentieth year anniversary. It gives me great pride to recognize them for all of the admirable work they do for those in need.

ON THE TRADE FACILITATION AND TRADE ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2015

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, June 19, 2015

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, although I oppose H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, I rise in support of Section 302 of the bill because it wisely allows Customs and Border Protection (CBP) the flexibility to determine when there is a suspicion that goods are counterfeit. The section clarifies that CBP shall consult with Intellectual Property (IP) owners and preserves the flexibility of customs to first consult as appropriate with the importer. However, it does not direct CBP to modify in any particular way its procedures regarding notice to importers prior to determining whether there is a suspicion that their detained goods are possibly counterfeit. This should result in earlier and more accurate decisions by CBP and preserve the ability of lawful importers to protect their confidential information from disclosure.

I am aware of cases where importers of genuine material have suffered significant and real costs because of CBP suspicions that the material was counterfeit. These losses occurred because shipments that were detained or seized were ultimately determined to be genuine and released long after their arrival and expected delivery dates. For example, in one case, a company suffered delays and increased costs for over 17 shipments that were seized or intensively examined by CBP over a three-month period after which all of the goods were ultimately determined to be genuine and were released long after their arrival and expected delivery dates. In another case, a company reported one shipment was seized and another one was detained for more than 30 days before both of these shipments were found to be genuine and were released. As a result of these long delays, the importers in each of these cases suffered significant costs for storage, brokerage, legal fees, product damage, and losses in customer good will.

I thank Chairman Ryan as well as the other Ways & Means Committee members who remain as committed as I am to preventing counterfeit merchandise from crossing our borders. I look forward to working with them to ensure smooth implementation of this new policy.

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