

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF NEW ORLEANS ATTORNEY
KENNETH CARTER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of New Orleans Attorney Kenneth Carter, the first African American tax assessor in New Orleans, who died on August 3, 2018 at the age of 74.

A native of New Orleans, Mr. Carter grew up in the Calliope public housing development, also known as B.W. Cooper apartments.

Mr. Carter, the father of Louisiana State Senator and state Democratic Party Chairwoman Karen Carter Peterson, was elected to the powerful post of tax assessor for the 1st Municipal District assessor's job in 1985 and served until 1994. This district contains the Central Business District and much of the city's most valuable real estate.

Mr. Carter attended Xavier Prep in New Orleans, received a B.A. degree in political science from the University of New Orleans (UNO) in 1976, and a J.D. degree from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 1978. He was a leader in the political organization BOLD. Mr. Carter's other leadership roles included a period as head of the New Orleans' Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and president of the Freret Street Development Corporation. In 1994, Mr. Carter ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of New Orleans.

Mr. Carter was also one of the attorneys involved in a Louisiana lawsuit against tobacco companies. He represented the plaintiffs and helped secure smoking cessation programs for people in Louisiana.

Mr. Carter played basketball at Xavier Prep in New Orleans. In 1962, one-year before the 1963 March on Washington, Mr. Carter also made history by being one of the first four African-Americans to integrate Loyola University's undergraduate program but could not join the basketball team because other colleges would boycott games rather than play against any African American players. The outright hostility shown by others, and ultimately not being allowed to play, caused Mr. Carter to give up his scholarship. It would take Mr. Carter a decade to return to college, the University of New Orleans, and ultimately back to Loyola for law school.

Mr. Carter and his wife Gigi celebrated 50 years of marriage in May of 2015. His daughter, Senator Peterson, and other state senators presented the couple with a resolution honoring their golden anniversary.

Mr. Kenneth Carter was a man of many firsts and deep conviction. He blazed trails as the first African American elected Assessor in the city and the first African American President of the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association. He believed in the power of civic engagement and worked hard to ensure government reflected the diversity of the citizenry. Addition-

ally, he took the time to mentor young men and women who sought to make their mark in politics and business. While he is no longer with us, his legacy lives on. New Orleans is a better place because of his efforts. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Mr. Carter, but surely, we can try to match his sense of service. We cannot match his courage, but we can strive to match his devotion.

Mr. Kenneth Carter is survived by his wife, Gigi; three daughters, Tara Hernandez, Karen Carter Peterson and Eileen Carter; and three grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Kenneth Carter.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE 1968 SOVIET
INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Even at the height of the Cold War, the Soviet Union was struggling to maintain order in its brutally enforced communist bloc.

Czechoslovakia, a vibrant democracy prior to the Second World War, had been annexed by the Nazis then subjugated by the Russians in the postwar Soviet takeover in 1948.

For 20 years, the pro-Soviet government installed in Prague stifled public dissent and maintained the charade of communist paradise amidst a crumbling economy.

But in early 1968, conservative leader Antonin Novotny was ousted as the head of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, and he was replaced by Alexander Dubcek.

The Dubcek government ended censorship in Czechoslovakia, and in April, the Czech Government issued a formal plan for further reforms.

Recalling the 1956 uprising in Hungary, leaders in Moscow worried that if Czechoslovakia carried reforms too far, other satellite states in Eastern Europe might follow, leading to a widespread rebellion against Moscow's control of the Warsaw Pact, the eastern bloc of nations created by the Soviets to rival the NATO alliance.

These fears, rising from the Kremlin's determination to maintain totalitarian control of its subjugated peoples, was the chief reason for Russian aggression 50 years ago today.

In addition, the Kremlin guessed—correctly—that given past U.S. pronouncements on non-intervention in the Eastern Bloc, the United States would condemn the invasion but might refrain from intervening.

An emboldened Soviet government under Leonid Brezhnev asserted as justification for the invasion “the Brezhnev Doctrine,” which held that Moscow would intervene in any nation where a communist government was under threat.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to have spoken today of these egregious Russian violations of sovereignty and self-determination as a recollection of times past; an episode consigned to the annals of history.

But this history provides a lesson that we dare not ignore.

In 2008, Vladimir Putin's Russia invaded the nation of Georgia in coordination with separatists in South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

Putin's Kremlin claimed that it was protecting Russian nationals in the region, but the American intelligence community accurately assessed that Moscow's involvement in South Ossetia and Abkhazia was a gambit to prevent Georgia's accession to NATO.

In Crimea and the Donbas, too, the Kremlin pursued its aggressive violation of international laws to illegally occupy those territories under the pretense of protecting Russian nationals and Russian interests.

The emboldened Putin regime continues its efforts to destabilize not only Georgia and Ukraine, which have expressed interest in joining the Western Alliance, but also linchpins of liberalism in Europe—from supporting populist nationalists in Austria and Hungary, to conducting extralegal assassinations in England, to influencing our very own elections in the United States.

Putin's actions have been further emboldened by the President's pronouncements casting doubt on the value of the Western Alliance and his moral ambivalence on Russian violations of international law.

Mr. Speaker, those who forget history are doomed to repeat it.

Russian aggression in Georgia, Ukraine, and elsewhere—as well as the continued human suffering thereafter—unequivocally reveals Vladimir Putin's disregard for international law and hostility to our Western alliance.

When confronted with such a foe, the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia demonstrates that it is imperative that we draw our allies and partners in Europe closer, not antagonize them.

Between its oppression of the Georgian people, poisoning of expatriates, assassination and imprisonment of dissenters, ruthless bombing of Syrian civilians, illegal occupation and deployment of mercenaries in Ukraine, and its active undermining of U.S. alliances and political systems, we must now, more than ever, stand fast with our allies and clearly signal our commitment to democratic institutions and international organizations and alliances.

Mr. Speaker, our partnerships in Europe advance U.S. interests and protect our allies from Russian aggression.

So on this 50th anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, it is critical that the United States Congress reaffirm our nation's unwavering commitment to Article 5 of the NATO Treaty and maintain its vigilance to the lasting humanitarian, social, and other costs that Russian aggression has imposed in Georgia, Ukraine, and elsewhere.

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