

His testimonial has provided posterity with the foremost lessons of liberty and freedom. His recollection belongs to us by virtue of his achievements. His memorial belongs to the ages.

Our estimation of him was formed on the battlefields around the world and has never changed. We regard him today as we always have—our nation's enduring hero. He has written his own history in the annuals of war in the blood of his enemy. The glory of his name is the legacy of every freedom loving man or woman who has ever lived or died on American soil.

We do not know the parable of his life. We do, however, know the nobility, the glory, and the significance of his death.

Men and women who have served their country in war need not be reminded of the high price of freedom. They, more than most, understand that freedom earned is always worth the price paid. That is our birthright; the legacy of America. That birthright, that legacy, and that heritage must never be taken for granted. The more difficult the struggle, the more glorious the victory.

Today, children must be taught the value of freedom and at what price their freedom was earned. They must be infused with the singular pride and privilege of being an American, and must be taught the deep sense of duty, honor and conviction conferred upon those of us fortunate enough to live in a free country.

Throughout the history of the United States, succeeding generations of Americans have always been inspired by the deeds, by the valor, and by the sacrifices made by American servicemen who served before them—giants in life and in death. Veterans Day is a gathering of generations, and a gathering of giants, and is the one day that solidifies generations of Americans.

On Veterans Day, a torch is passed from one generation to the other, and empowers us all to recollect and to express our gratitude for those who have served in wars past. The torch is subsequently passed along to our children and to our grandchildren, and burns brightly within the spirit and the soul of men and women destined to uphold the courageous tradition of American servicemen—patriots all who honorably served their country, not only in World War II, but to those who served in Korea and Vietnam, and whose 50th Anniversary will soon be upon us.

The American spirit has always been resolute and cannot be deterred, and is the determination which fires our consciousness through any endeavor, through any ordeal, through any conflict.

Servicemen and women have always been our nation's guardians, and have always protected and defended the sacred traditions entrusted to us by the Constitution. To paraphrase Winston Churchill in honoring British airmen, never has so much been owed, by so many, to so few.

If history has taught us anything, it is that the American serviceman will bear any hardship, will overcome any obstacle, and will conquer any foe in their quest for liberty, justice, and freedom.

As we conclude the commemoration ceremonies of the 50th Anniversary of the end of the war, it is fitting that we pay homage and acknowledge the World War II generation for their contribution to our nation. In a true sense, this generation had a rendezvous with destiny.

KEN SARO-WIWA

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 10, 1995

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am shocked and gravely concerned about the outrageous death sentences handed down by the Nigerian military tribunal to Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni leaders.

The injustices committed by the Nigerian military dictatorship's special tribunal responsible for trying these men has been well documented by international human rights organizations and independent legal observers. This trial was conducted outside the regular court system and without consideration of the rights of the accused.

As cochairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus I have sent numerous letters to the Nigerian Government calling for justice in this case. This recent trial and verdict attests to the Nigerian Government's unwillingness to abide by international human right standards ensuring that their citizens are afforded due process. The environmental destruction and human rights abuse that has impacted the Ogoni people and their lands for more than 40 years must be stopped. If Ken Saro-Wiwa or any of the Ogoni leaders are executed, Congress will see to it that all ties with Nigeria, not only diplomatic, but all economic ties, are completely and permanently severed.

HONORING JOHN AND VIVIAN KING

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 10, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John and Vivian King, two people who have been helping their community and the children in northern Virginia for many years.

John King did not start out to do anything special when he started walking his granddaughter to school. But one day her teacher asked him to help in class and he agreed. At that time he had no idea that he would end up creating and running the school's safety program, assisting the counselor with the drug awareness program, and recruiting grandparent volunteers.

When Belvedere Elementary School in Falls Church, was undergoing extensive construction and remodeling, the need for a comprehensive safety program was evident. In addition, the safety of children going to and from school had been an increasing problem. Mr. King developed a safety program for kindergarten through sixth grade. He did not just go into the classrooms and talk, he created lesson plans which involved role playing and skits. He also used posters, charts, and questionnaires.

The "Just Say No" program has been highly successful as well. Using carefully prepared lessons, poster contests, guest speakers, and field trips, Mr. King has impressed upon every student the importance of keeping away from drugs. His programs have been such a success that he has been asked to take them to other elementary schools in northern Virginia.

In addition to his work at the schools, Mr. King is very active in his church, where he is involved in CCD classes, and in the church's elementary school, where he helps with sex education classes and drug awareness classes.

During these many years of community involvement there has been one person who has been at John King's side is his wife of 50 years Vivian. Mrs. King has never been one to come into the spotlight, she prefers being behind the scenes. However, her acts of caring and kindness have never gone unnoticed. Mrs. King started making bookmarks for all of the children at Belvedere to encourage them to read. She was also ready with homemade cookies and cakes for special events. When Mr. King started the Red Ribbon program at Belvedere Elementary Mrs. King made sure that all of the ribbons had a pin fixed to them before being passed out to all of the children and teachers at school.

In addition to honoring their many years of community service, I know my colleagues join me in wishing John and Vivian a happy anniversary because the Kings celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 29, 1995. The Kings are the proud parents of six children: Gary, Greg, Pamela, Joseph and John (twins), and Michael, who passed away in 1984.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in honoring John and Vivian King for all of their contributions to the elementary schools and community in northern Virginia. It is this kind of civic involvement and volunteer spirit that makes northern Virginia a great place to live.

TRIBUTE TO ALPHONSE STROOBANTS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 10, 1995

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Al Stroobants for his dedication to serving his fellow citizens, both publicly through his professional career, and privately through the generous donation of \$3 million to his community hospital.

Mr. Stroobants is truly living the American dream. A victim of World War II, Mr. Stroobants was forced to flee his homeland of Belgium with his sister and his parents when it was invaded by Nazi Germans. Escaping through the war zone, he remembers to this day the bombs exploding around him, and the smell of death.

He came to America in 1956, with \$55 in his pocket, and an education that ended when he was 13 years old. In 1962, he founded his own company, Belgium Tool & Die, with \$3,500 and two apprentices.

By 1990, sales of the company, which he has since sold, were \$25 million and Mr. Stroobants was able to sell his product in 35 countries.

To complete the American dream, Mr. Stroobants was able to give back to the community which embraced him and his success; the \$3 million gift to the Lynchburg General Hospital. His gift will help save lives, and will ensure the region has a high level of cardiac care. This new center, the Stroobants Heart