

family, and the city of Passaic in remembering Deacon Magnus Ellen, Sr., and his many invaluable contributions to the community.

SALUTING KARL ANTON

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with my constituents and the members and friends of the Long Island, Nassau/Suffolk Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International as they gather on March 15, at the Garden City Hotel to celebrate their outstanding accomplishments and honor a most unique and dedicated individual, Karl V. Anton, Jr.

When describing Karl Anton, one usually says, "He has ink in his blood." This healthy dose of printer's ink was given to him by his father, who published a community paper in Freeport, as well as the Nassau News. It very soon became the family tradition to both report and create history. As Karl became more involved with his father's journalistic efforts, the concept of community service took hold and very soon merged with his dedication to publishing. What resulted were newspapers that served to both enhance and inform the community. Many of today's Long Island newspapers have greatly benefited from contact with Karl Anton.

Karl is indefatigable in all he undertakes and successful in all his endeavors. The intimate knowledge of the community gained by Karl through his newspapers generated a sense of duty to the various neighborhoods he covered. Very quickly he became a multifaceted workman devoting his knowledge and skills to a variety of community organizations and projects.

Karl Anton's involvement in the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation came about when his oldest granddaughter, Christine, was diagnosed with the illness. Since then, a second daughter, Mary, was similarly diagnosed. Much to the great love and dedication of Karl, these children have been blessed with a compassionate, selfless and dedicated grandfather who has devoted his total self in aiding the search for a cure.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when we search for heroes to lead us by dint of personality and hard work, we have been blessed with such a man as Karl Anton. I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in saluting Karl Anton for a lifetime of selfless contribution to his community.

BLACK HISTORY MILITARY
HERITAGE

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 12, 1997

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, last month I had the opportunity to attend a ground breaking ceremony for the Afro-American Memorial Museum at Camp Blanding, FL. The museum hopes to foster understanding, interest and pride in the military history of Florida and in particular of black Floridians.

The dedicating speech at this event was given by Prof. Robert Hawk, a former Navy corpsman and current professor of American and Florida history. To put it simply, Professor Hawk is the exemplification of the museum itself. He has authored many books on the Armed Forces and on Florida; he has worked for the Florida Department of Military Affairs as a historical site interpreter; he has assembled and published 150 volumes of archival material on Florida history; and he has co-designed and created three public museums devoted to Florida history. We all have a lot to learn from a man like Professor Hawk. His speech at the ground breaking struck a chord with me; it enlightened me; and it made me proud to be an American and a Floridian.

Mr. Speaker, attached is the text of Professor Hawk's speech from the ground breaking. It is to be made part of the RECORD. I urge my colleagues, and indeed all Americans, to read through what he has to say. His message is invaluable in understanding the history behind our great country, and is therefore invaluable in understanding the pride in being an American, a Floridian, and a neighbor of great men like Professor Hawk.

BLACK FLORIDA MILITARY HERITAGE

(By Robert Hawk)

A narrative version, based on the notes prepared, of the speech I gave the Black History Month groundbreaking ceremony for the "Walk Through Time" memorial project at Camp Blanding, Florida; February 21, 1997. Its pretty rough as it was designed as a speech and not a finished product for publication. Anyway, here it is as best I could reconstruct it! I am also enclosing a copy of the historical background material for the project grant that was handed out at the ceremony as I wrote that as well and it tells the story a bit more coherently.

As a professional historian and teacher, I am frequently surprised, indeed depressed to realize how very little the average American knows of our country's history. And for Florida history; even among individuals born and raised here, with long family histories associated with the state, their knowledge of our state's history is generally extremely limited, often non-existent. There is virtually no knowledge or appreciation of our peninsula's long, interesting and distinguished history which extends over more than four centuries.

And knowledge of Florida's Black military historical heritage? Even less is known.

Contemporary, popular or "politically correct" view of Florida, and its Black history, suggests cotton fields and slaves and, for virtually everyone, Florida history begins when the Americans take over in 1821.

But this view completely overlooks the more than 350 years of Florida's history which precedes American control and, it ignores the important military service which Black Floridians have given their new world home for all those preceding centuries.

Our "Walk Through Time" memorial is designed to commemorate the entire 430 years of dedicated military service by Black Floridians. And that unique heritage begins where it should; at the beginning!

1565

When Pedro Menendez de Aviles established the military or presidio settlement of St. Augustine in September 1565, he mustered all his troops and the settler militia. The company of local militia contained at least two men of African origins. As a note, under Spanish law, in a presidio or military settlement, all males, black/white, free and slave; Indians, mixed bloods; even convicts were liable for military or militia service.

From 1565 on, there was never a time when there were no men of African origin serving in the Florida militia or local garrison. By the middle of the 17th century, at least one entire company of Florida militia infantry was composed entirely of free and slave black local residents.

During the War of Jenkins Ear, Florida was partially defended by a Black infantry company of former slaves and free citizens attached to the Fort Mose settlement north of St. Augustine commanded by Francisco Menendez, a former slave and now wealthy free man of color in Florida. In June 1740 after the British invaded Florida and laid siege to the city of St. Augustine, those Black soldier, along with their Spanish Regular compatriots, successfully assaulted the British positions at the occupied Ft. Mose, precipitating the subsequent evacuation of Florida by the British.

Few Floridians and fewer Americans seem aware that Florida was a Loyalist colony during the war of the American Revolution. The colony raised a regiment of East Florida Rangers of nine companies, at least one of which was entirely composed of local Black citizens. The Rangers fought the Rebels from the north several times and never lost a battle, eventually helping the British occupy east Georgia which they held until war's end.

During the Second Spanish period following the Revolution, Florida had many Black infantry and artillery militiamen.

In 1821 the Americans took over Florida. Things would change as the Americans had different institutions and values. There would be a much reduced, almost non-existent role for Blacks in the local militia but some Florida Blacks did serve in the Seminole Indians Wars.

And then there is America's most devastating war; the Civil War or the War of Northern Aggression.

Most people believe all Southern Blacks who serve in the war did so in the Union Army. Not so. Throughout the South, approximately 40,000 Southern Blacks, both free men and slave, actively served in or with the Confederate Army and they fought for their homeland; the South.

Some did serve in the Union Army. From Florida, most local Blacks who served the Union did so in the 1st South Carolina, later re-named the 33rd US Colored Infantry.

But other Florida Blacks served the South. For example, at least twelve local men of color served in Company B, 3rd Florida Infantry, Confederate States Army, one of whom was Corporal Emmanuel Osborne. His brother Samuel Osborne, served as a Private in the 33rd US Colored Infantry, Union Army. Not only white families were divided by this terrible war.

After the Civil War, Florida, and America's military and militia units were segregated. Black militia units in Florida did not receive official recognition but Black Floridians continued to organize and train their own militia units right up to the beginning of the First World War. Some Florida Blacks served in the Black Regiments of the Army fighting Indians in the West, in Cuba and the Philippines. At least three members of those regiments from Florida were killed in action at the Battle of San Juan Hill in 1898 and are buried in the National cemetery in St. Augustine.

During World War I and World War II, America's military remained segregated. But thousands of Black Floridians served in the military, some died and some were killed in action fighting the Germans in the First War and Germans and Japanese during the Second.

Largely desegregated after the Second War, Black Floridians continued to serve their state and nation in Korea, Vietnam,