

the right choices in life and secure a brighter future.

And that, Mr. Speaker, is my Report from Indiana.

THE SPIRIT OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR. LIVES ON

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue the celebration of the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Last month, I attended an event in Deptford Township, New Jersey, honoring Dr. King and his dream. Speaking with the people of Deptford, I was struck by how significant of an impact Dr. King had on all our lives and, in particular, on the lives of our children. Even though Dr. King left this world long before they entered it, America's youth have a deep understanding of what his message says to us today. I would like to share with my colleagues the essays of Krystal Tribbett and Dave Forstrom, two local high school students. Their words do much to inspire us as we continue our progress to realizing Dr. King's dream.

"FULFILLING DR. KING'S DREAM"

(By Krystal Tribbett)

"I have a dream, that one day, my four little children will grow up in a nation where they are not judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their characters." In the future Martin Luther King's dream will come true, not because biased people will change their points of view, but because people will no longer allow themselves to sit in the back of the bus, or the middle, but will place themselves in the front, to become an intricate element in protesting against bigotry in today's society. Men and women of different denominations, creeds, and colors will transcend the negative comments, stereotypes, and statistics in order to become our leaders. The tormented will focus their attention on improving their status and beating the odds stacked against them in order to better themselves, by helping their families and communities. They will improve the nation by improving themselves. They will fight not through violence, but through intelligence. They will use the power of the gray, gray matter, to place their ethnicity, individuality to a respected, revered level in the world.

The many people of the world are recognized in history for various reasons, for being slaves, illegal aliens, drug dealers, etc. They are also known, however, for being renown actors and singers, scientists, doctors, attorneys, and athletes. In these areas people have begun to exhibit themselves as a powerful force that can reshape history. Youths are the key to the accomplishment of Dr. King's dream. They are setting goals to impact the future. Most importantly, the goals of young people focus on disproving various stereotypes, in order to serve as an example to the older generation, as well as the younger one, that they can be more than drug dealers, clerks, or custodians. They want to prove to biased individuals that anyone and everyone can be anything, and all that they want to be, despite obstacles that they have or will encounter. Everybody can make a difference.

In the future, great changes are bound to occur in the history of this nation, of this world, because of the remarkable achieve-

ments of the people who did not allow ignorance to hold them back. The history makers of tomorrow are recognizing, and taking advantage of the fact that nothing and no one but themselves can keep them from achieving their dreams. True, there will be an element of society who remain ignorant, however adults and juveniles who are knowledgeable and determined will make the difference. The fulfillment of Dr. King's honorable dream is not too far around the corner. Blacks, Whites, Jews, Hispanics, and Asians will put forth their best effort to carry out their plans and become role models that will inform others of prejudice, and how to defeat it. The ambitions are many and the intentions are promising. The great dream of Martin Luther King is going to come true, with the use of the "gray, lifting up the black."

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

(By Dave Forstrom)

What can one person do to carry on the legacy of this great individual? I feel you must start by acquiring some of his own characteristics. You will need his passion, drive, and most of all his courage. Without these you will never accomplish anything worthwhile. Next, you must look at what he did for African Americans and America as a country. He led a massive movement against racism and prejudice which is unparalleled. The main reason for this is that every one of his marches, rallies, and boycotts was completely peaceful.

Now that you have a basic idea of what King did you must look at society today and see how you can make an impact on it. The world now is still rampant with racism and it seems like an insurmountable problem. Everywhere you look there is segregation, prejudice, and hatred. Many people choose to ignore it and put it out of their minds. That is where you must make the choice to care and not to ignore but to start making a change for the better.

I think the next logical step would be to find other people who have made the same choice as you and surround yourself with them. Talk to them and find out what they have done and plan to do. You should also share your experiences with the problem and any ideas that you might have. Together you have many options to choose from. You can start organizing meetings to expand your following and try to get more people involved.

At these gatherings you could discuss plans on what you are going to do. As a group you could follow Dr. King's example and hold peace marches or boycotts. By making yourselves more public you will be noticed more and be able to spread your message to a larger amount of people. This is important because it will cause people to think about how they feel on this issue and may gain your group more support.

Another possibility is to seek help from already founded organizations that share your views on racism. You can gain a deeper understanding of what is happening and what needs to be done. This will also be a good starting point and will provide much needed experience for yourself.

It may also help your quest to write letters to your local government or member of Congress. By getting support from a politician your group would get much more attention and recognition. That would certainly be a great boost and would land you many more members.

But what if you are not a great leader or cannot devote all your free time to such an organization? Well, there are also ways you can help as well. You could set aside a part of your income each month and try to support the peace groups. You could also set

aside some time to attend one of the meetings. But I feel the most important thing is to make that choice to care about racism in your society. Do not ignore it and keep yourself informed about it by reading or watching the news each night. Refuse to let racism continue and eat away at the community. Keep the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. alive and stand up for what is right.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT G. KEENE

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 1998

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a good friend and neighbor to all of us Suffolk County who recently passed away, Robert G. Keene, beloved historian for the Town of Southampton.

Bob was a familiar figure in Southampton and a regular columnist for the weekly Southampton Press, where according to his editor Peter Boody, "He wrote mostly about things that irritated him, and that included everything from people with no class to historians who didn't give Southampton the credit it deserved." Bob was a vocal and articulate advocate of Southampton's cause in the debate with Southold over which community was the first on Long Island to establish an English-speaking settlement.

For 31 years, Mr. Keene ran a bookstore and art gallery in Southampton that brought him into daily contact with such notables as Truman Capote and Willem de Kooning. His store carried many rare titles, including a first edition of Dr. Samuel Johnson's dictionary and a copy of the first Roman Catholic bible published in America. Bob also had a very passionate appreciation for art and eventually he combined his love for books and art by displaying art work in his shop.

Bob started working with the town historian's office when it was under William Dunwell. Mr. Dunwell was first appointed town historian in 1939 and served the people of Southampton faithfully for 43 years until 1981 when he retired to become historian emeritus. Bob took over the historian's office in 1979, although he was not officially appointed historian until Mr. Dunwell's retirement in 1981. From day one Bob's office was an historic treasure trove piled high with books, documents, photographs and local history memorabilia. The local history that Mr. Keene carried in his head, garnered from his own personal experiences and his years working with William Dunwell, was considered so valuable, that the town board recently budgeted \$10,000 to capture it all in an oral-history project. Regrettably, that project was not begun before Mr. Keene's untimely death. An irreplaceable history is lost to us forever.

Although Bob Keene only settled in Southampton in 1950, from Bar Harbor Maine, his heart and soul beat for Southampton. He loved Southampton and he loved the people of Southampton. He will be sorely missed. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and accomplishments of Bob Keene and wishing his family, especially his daughter Melissa Elizabeth, our prayers and condolences.