

warnings and begin to give this problem the attention it deserves.●

#### GERARD AND MYRIAM UBAGHS

● Mr. BREAUX. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the efforts of Gerard and Myriam Ubaghs of Margraten, Netherlands, who have cared for the graves of American servicemen killed in the line of duty during World War II. In September of 1944, the United States Army reached the German frontier and entered the Netherlands near the city of Maastricht. By September 13, 1944, the troops of the U.S. 30th Infantry Division liberated part of eastern Holland, freeing the area from the grip of Nazi Germany. During the battle, 8,302 soldiers lost their lives including American servicemen from every state in the Union.

I, as well as all American citizens, am truly thankful for the bravery, valor, and patriotism shown by our soldiers who fought and died for their country on that day and every day of World War II. These servicemen not only gave their lives for their country, but also died for the people of the Netherlands. For this, the citizens of the Netherlands have been and remain truly grateful to the fallen soldiers of the U.S. Army.

One manifestation of their appreciation is their care for the Netherlands American Cemetery in the town of Margraten, in the Limburg Province of the Netherlands. This cemetery is the only one of its kind in the Netherlands. It was established in November of 1944 and free use of the land as a permanent burial ground was granted, without charge or taxation by the government of the Netherlands. The cemetery occupies 65.5 acres and includes a 101 foot-tall tower, a Court of Honor, a chapel and a reflecting pool. Among the 8,302 graves lie the remains of American, English, Canadian and Mexican troops.

I would like to thank not only the people of the Netherlands for this cemetery, but two individuals in particular who have honored our fallen servicemen for fifty-three years. They are Gerard and Myriam Ubaghs. As children, after the liberation of their town by American troops, they adopted and cared for two graves until the bodies were identified and returned to the United States. To this day, they continue to honor our fallen soldiers and express much gratitude to America.

I would like to officially acknowledge the Ubaghs and the people of Margraten, and thank them for their gracious deeds and for honoring our fallen soldiers. Their service is a reminder to all of us how the efforts of such brave soldiers on a day more than fifty years ago effects people around the world even today.●

#### CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS TO THE "LITTLE ROCK NINE"

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, in just a moment, staff will have a bill that I

introduced several months ago. I would like to just discuss it briefly so we can get that behind us before I offer it.

But this is an amendment that would award the Congressional Gold Medal to the nine African American children who integrated Little Rock Central High during probably the greatest threat to the Constitution since the Civil War. I lived through it. I was in a small town in western Arkansas called Charleston. That is my hometown, where I was born and reared.

My hometown had integrated in 1954, very quietly and very peacefully, a town of 1,200 people at the time. Our schools had successfully integrated from the fall of 1954 until Governor Faubus called out the Guard to block integration at Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock.

Let me also say that Charleston, this little hometown of mine which I am seeking to get designated a national commemorative site by the Park Service this year, was the first school to integrate following the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in May of 1954. I was on the school board during that time, and we integrated the school that fall. There is still some controversy because good records were not kept about how many African American children were integrated into the school system.

It went along smoothly. There were some schools that wouldn't play us in football, and there were some schools that wouldn't allow our band to participate, because we had African Americans on the football team and in the band. We lived with that as best we could. There was a lot of seething undercurrent. Even though it had gone peacefully for 3 years, there was still an unrest among some.

After the turmoil in Little Rock, that seething unrest surfaced. I will never forget, Mr. President, I was trying a lawsuit on the third floor of Logan County Courthouse in Paris, AR, and I heard these rumbling trucks going down Highway 22 from Fort Chaffee which came through my hometown to Little Rock to provide the logistical support for the 101st Airborne which President Eisenhower had sent in to Little Rock to enforce the integration of that school.

It was a very ominous, frankly, rather terrifying time. I was not as concerned about what was going on in Little Rock—though that was terrifying and certainly to the people in Little Rock it was terrifying—as I was with the certain knowledge in my own mind that we were in for big trouble in my hometown, too, because I knew, as I say, that seething unrest was going to be fortified and encouraged to try to do the same thing, and sure enough it happened.

We had a big knock-down-drag-out election in March of 1958, and the whole issue was: Shall we stay integrated or shall we re-segregate?

I convinced a friend of mine to run to fill one of the vacancies that had been created because things got so hot a

couple of board members resigned. I think there were about 600 votes cast in that election, probably five times more than ever had been cast in a school election in Charleston, AR, in its history. In any event, the so-called "moderates" won overwhelmingly, and that put the issue to rest in my hometown.

Back to the Little Rock Nine. Ernie Green testified in the Energy Committee the other day in support of a bill to make Central High School in Little Rock a unit of the Park Service. He was one of the Little Rock Nine, later was Assistant Secretary of Labor when Jimmy Carter was President.

Anybody who didn't live through that time can never understand what a traumatic period that was for my State. We didn't attract a single industry in the State of Arkansas for almost 10 years after the Little Rock High School integration crisis. But those nine young black children who were escorted into that school in the fall of 1957 by paratroopers from the 101st Airborne showed more bravery than anybody I have ever seen in my life. It was absolutely unbelievable.

They have been recognized in a lot of ways, but S. 1283 would provide them with the Congressional Gold Medal. It is an honor that they are due and that is long overdue. This bill was recently reported out of the Banking Committee and is now on the Calendar. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 465, S. 1283.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1283) to award congressional gold medals to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, commonly referred collectively as the "Little Rock Nine" on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the integration of the Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment on page 4, so as to make the bill read:

S. 1283

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress hereby finds the following:

(1) Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, hereafter in this section referred to as the "Little Rock Nine", voluntarily subjected themselves to the bitter stinging pains of racial bigotry.

(2) The Little Rock Nine are civil rights pioneers whose selfless acts considerably advanced the civil rights debate in this country.