

AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS
OF WORLD WAR II**HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Town of Hempstead's special ceremony honoring African American World War II veterans for their dedicated commitment and service to the country.

Throughout our nation's history, our armed forces have gone off to battle and served bravely and effectively in every situation we have asked. As of late, we have done much to recognize the accomplishments of the generation that fought the Second World War, and rightly so. But we should not forget the special role that African Americans played in that conflict. The road to preserving democracy was paved by a legacy of racism. For this reason, I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the 1.2 million African-Americans who served in World War II, and in many cases died for their country.

We cannot expect future generations to understand fully what those who came before saw, experienced and felt in battle, but we can make sure that our children know enough to say, "Thank you." Fighting against tyranny and participating in the liberation of Europe, they risked their lives to defend freedom, even though they did not enjoy those same freedoms at home. In the process, they forever changed the face of America's armed forces and society.

We owe them a debt of gratitude. As a precursor to the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 60's they resisted America's centuries old hypocrisy about race. If it was not for their belief in the future, surely we would not have had President Truman's Executive Order desegregating the armed forces. If it was not for sacrifices, surely there would not have been the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. And surely, if it was not for their faith, I fear we would not have the 1965 Voting Rights Act ensuring the right of everyone to participate in our democracy. For all of this, we thank them. With bravery and determination they led a struggle for racial equality that doomed segregation and changed America forever.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE SUCCESS OF
THE BASKETBALL TEAM OF
JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY**HON. EVA M. CLAYTON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to praise the outstanding basketball season of my alma mater, Johnson C. Smith University. Their season ended last night with a near miss in the quarter final round of the NCAA Division 2 Tournament in California. Earlier this month, our team won the Central Intercolle-

giate Athletic Association (CIAA) Tournament in Raleigh, NC, and one week later, won the South Atlantic Regional Championship which gave them a shot at the NCAA Division 2 crown.

Johnson C. Smith University is a small liberal arts school in Charlotte, NC. It was founded in 1867 with support from the Presbyterian Church. This season marks the best basketball record in the school's history, and its first CIAA championship. I join other proud Smith alumni, proud North Carolinians, and sports enthusiasts everywhere to commend the team and the school for a job well done.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO
AWARD THE CONGRESSIONAL
GOLD MEDAL TO FORMER SEN-
ATOR EUGENE MCCARTHY**HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to former Senator Eugene Joseph McCarthy in recognition of his exemplary service and lifelong dedication to the nation and its people.

Mr. Speaker, Senator McCarthy has a distinguished record of public service to the American people. As a member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, as a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, and as a private citizen, Senator McCarthy made lasting contributions to the nation's welfare.

During his ten years of service in the House of Representatives, Eugene McCarthy dedicated himself to improving the lives of his fellow Americans by forming the Democratic Study Group, devoted to advancing the interests of working Americans. Eugene McCarthy also served honorably as a United States Senator while he fought to advance the causes of peace and democracy in the United States and abroad.

Through his efforts to shape legislation, Eugene McCarthy has exemplified the highest standards of public service. His dedication to the principles of honesty and fairness are evident in his efforts to pass civil rights legislation, increase the minimum wage, shape a just tax policy, reform government institutions, and promote a peaceful foreign policy.

Senator McCarthy waged a principled campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1968. His stand against the Vietnam War inspired young people to believe they could make a difference in public life.

Since leaving the United States Senate, Eugene McCarthy has dedicated himself to sharing his ideas and knowledge by writing books and poetry and by speaking to audiences throughout the United States and around the world. Eugene McCarthy epitomizes the most deeply held and cherished values of our nation.

Mr. Speaker, Senator McCarthy is an esteemed fellow Minnesotan and friend. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring former Senator Eugene Joseph McCarthy for his unique contributions to our nation.

CELEBRATING GREEK
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to join my Colleagues and the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues this evening in celebrating the 180th anniversary of Greece's independence.

March 25, 2001 marks the beginning of the revolution that freed the Greek people from the Ottomans. After almost 400 years of slavery under the oppressive Ottoman Empire—during which time the Greek people did not enjoy any civil rights, including the right to an education or to worship in their religion—the people of Greece took up arms and risked their lives to successfully fight for their freedom. This date also marks the creation of modern Greece.

That is why commemorating Greek Independence Day is so important and why I am proud to join our Greek brothers and sisters in celebrating this great milestone. As someone who fled communism, I am fully aware of how precious our freedom is and what a joyous occasion this is to the Greek-American community and to freedom lovers everywhere.

The Greek influence is inherent in our own democratic form of government. As Thomas Jefferson has stated, ". . . to the ancient Greeks . . . we are all indebted for the light which led ourselves [American colonists] out of Gothic darkness." This quote illustrates how much Greek democratic ideals helped forge our own government, including the right of self-governance, independence, and freedom.

But we need not only look behind us to appreciate the gifts Greece has given us. In recent history, Greece has also been a great friend of the United States. For example, according to research conducted by the The National Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, Greece is only one of three nations in the world, beyond the British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict in this century.

Today, in the United States, Greek-Americans are one of the most successful nationalities. According to data obtained by the U.S. Census, children of the first Greeks who became United States citizens ranked first in median educational attainment among the American ethnic nationalities. Greeks and Greek-Americans in this country have made many invaluable contributions to society in the areas of medicine, fine arts, sports, and education. It is only fitting that we also recognize these individuals who are the product of an independent Greek society.

I am proud to know many Greek and Greek-American individuals and am honored to celebrate Greek Independence Day. I ask my Colleagues to join me in paying tribute to such a special celebration.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MANSFIELD LADY TIGERS, REPEATING STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I would again like to recognize and congratulate the remarkable Mansfield Lady Tigers basketball team, for repeating for the 3rd consecutive year Texas Division 5-A girls basketball champions.

I have just returned from my District in North Texas and I can report that Lady Tiger fever is running high, and talk of a 4-peat is already in the air. All of Mansfield and its surrounding communities have been energized by the Lady Tigers exciting drive to a third straight state title. Last week, the Lady Tigers were also honored with a #1 national ranking.

The Lady Tigers provided us with thrills all season, but their run through the playoffs was especially exciting. The fact that is amazing is 4,000 residents took off work to watch the team win another state championship in Austin shows the strong commitment of the Mansfield community to their Tigers.

Once again congratulations to Coach Morrow and all of the Mansfield Lady Tiger players and coaches on their tremendous achievement. Savor this victory, you deserve it after a tremendous season. We can't wait to watch you next year.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES J. TRAYLOR

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Charles Traylor, a longtime leader of our state and a man whose compassion for others was as big and open as Colorado's sky.

"Charlie", as he was known by most, was an excellent writer whose wit often graced the editorial pages of the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel. He was a strong spokesman for improving public education and a champion of opportunity for the less advantaged in our society. As a highly respected lawyer, Charlie understood the power of education in elevating a person's life. He worked hard to carry this message into the lives of others. Often, you could find him at school district meetings or working to improve Mesa State College.

Charlie was known throughout Colorado as a "damn good lawyer." Over the years, he was ready to take on the hard fights for people who didn't have a lot of money—and he often won. He won admiration for his selfless commitment to helping Coloradans who needed a hand up. He will be missed.

A recent article in the Daily Sentinel illustrates Charlie's accomplishments and character, which left a lasting impression on Colorado. For the benefit of our colleagues, I am attaching a copy of that column, for inclusion in the RECORD.

[From the Daily Sentinel, February 6, 2001]
LEGENDARY G-J LAWYER TRAYLOR DIES AT AGE 85

(By Gary Harmon)

GRAND JUNCTION, CO—To have known Charlie Traylor was to have generated a story, one that would always have a point in the telling.

Today, though, someone else at the Aspinall Foundation will have to tell Mr. Traylor's tales as a committee interviews scholarship candidates. Members of the Mesa County Bar Association won't have the opportunity to hear Mr. Traylor spin out his recollections of the law practice in the mid-20th century and what they mean in the new millennium.

Mr. Traylor—advocate, political adviser, sage and raconteur—died Sunday. He was 85. There are to be no services. But there are recollections aplenty.

The Aspinall Foundation Scholarship Committee, which is unusual in conducting personal interviews with applicants—who must aspire to public service—will meet despite the death of the man that banker Pat Gormley described as the "patron saint" of the foundation founded in 1968.

"We're going to go ahead and hold it because that's what we think he would have wanted," Gormley said.

What Mr. Traylor wanted, he rarely left to doubt.

A lifelong Democrat, Mr. Traylor once was tempted to switch party registration for the limited purpose of voting to oust a certain Republican officeholder, then switch back a day later, recalled Jim Robb, a Grand Junction lawyer, federal magistrate, and occasional political foe as a Republican and a consistent admirer of Mr. Traylor.

His response to that suggestion after a day of thinking about it, Robb said, was this: "He walked into work from his house and if someone were to hit him on that day, he would show up at the Pearly Gates and would have to answer that he was registered as a Republican and he wouldn't have gotten in.

"So he decided not to do that."

Mr. Traylor, though, was more than a political partisan, even if his home was known to Bobby and Teddy Kennedy during the 1960 election campaign, Robb said. Mr. Traylor greeted John Kennedy on a visit to Grand Junction.

"I think I would describe him as a legendary lawyer in western Colorado," Robb said. "Our religions were different, our politics were different. We had so many differences and yet I felt very, very close to Charlie Traylor. I think he brought out friendship in anyone he met."

U.S. Rep. Scott McInnis, R-Colo., said that Mr. Traylor "gave immeasurably to his community, state and nation. Western Colorado is undoubtedly a better place because of Charlie's life of service. He will be greatly missed, but not soon forgotten."

Mr. Traylor knew how to work as an outsider from an early age, said Tom Harshman, a former law partner. Mr. Traylor, a Roman Catholic, was elected student body president at Ole Miss in strong, Baptist country when religion was an issue. "He used to say Catholics in Mississippi were as welcome as dogs in a cathedral," Harshman said. "He was quite a phenomenon."

He frequently joked that he graduated from college with more money than he had to begin with because he started a business delivering sandwiches to the dorms, Harshman said.

Mr. Traylor knew how to get what he wanted, Gormley said, remembering the time he was recruited to be treasurer for the campaigns of U.S. Rep. Wayne N. Aspinall,

the Palisade lawyer who chaired the House Interior Committee. Mr. Traylor was Aspinall's longtime campaign manager.

Mr. Traylor didn't approach Gormley directly. "He asked my father and my father told me that's a good job."

A gift of being able to condense issues into a few words, Gormley said, made Mr. Traylor a strong trial attorney.

When Mr. Traylor moved to Grand Junction in 1946, he took on the duties of bailing out the prostitutes who were hired by madams who kept his firm on retainer.

When Harshman joined the firm in 1965, his job was to assist Mr. Traylor at trial and that first year was a doozy: five murder trials. Mr. Traylor got four of his defendants off and one guilty on a lesser charge. "He was an excellent lawyer," said Terry Farina, a former Mesa County district attorney. "He was shrewd and he had the common touch."

He didn't try only murder cases. Mr. Traylor was one of the first attorneys to recover damages for widows whose husbands had died of radiation-related diseases contracted in the uranium mines that dotted the Southwest.

In the meantime, Mr. Traylor and his wife, Helen, raised seven children and he was active in trial lawyers groups.

"He was always trying to stretch the paradigm," said another former law partner, Dick Arnold. "I don't think he realized he had this knack for being creative."

Mr. Traylor retired from his law firm, Traylor, Tompkins, Black and Gaty, on Jan. 12, his 85th birthday. Four days later he suffered a stroke and was set to begin a rehabilitation regimen.

"I was thinking positive," said Bill Cleary, a Traylor friend from 1961. "He told me it was pretty tough, this rehab. I was looking forward to his regaining a certain mobility."

Mr. Traylor, in fact, was to have been on the county bar association program on Jan. 22 to recall the old days, Farina said.

Mr. Traylor, though, never completely retired.

"He was so robust," Farina said. "I recently gave him a book about a lawyer-turned-journalist who goes back to Natchez and I thought Charlie would like it.

"After two weeks, he and Helen both had read it and liked it and he returned it to me with a critique of the fictionalized trial. He just had that kind of mind."

Even to the end, Mr. Traylor kept a few surprises.

It wasn't until Robb visited him in his office as Mr. Traylor was moving out that Robb realized he and Mr. Traylor were fraternity brothers.

And Mr. Traylor, effusive as he was, rarely discussed his experiences in World War 11, said Harshman. As commander of a heavy-weapon company, he earned a Bronze Star and liberated Gunkirchen, a camp holding Jewish and Polish prisoners.

Mr. Traylor's public passion, though, was education. He frequently attended meetings of the School District 51 board and pressed for several programs, including MESA, which promoted math and science for minorities and women, and a committee promoting partnership between District 51 and Mesa State College.

"Charlie Traylor was one of a kind," said Marilyn Conner, assistant superintendent and a Traylor acquaintance for 15 years. "I believe he was as intelligent and as insightful and as gentlemanly a person as you would run across."

Mr. Traylor also was a supporter of Mesa State, regularly attending plays at the college, Robb recalled.

"We're going to take a walk along the river and think about him," Robb said of his wife, Maggie, who directed many of those plays.