

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEON EVANS, IN
MEMORIAM

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Mr. Leon Evans who passed away Thursday, February 20, 2003 in Neptune, New Jersey. Mr. Evans was a dedicated, loving man and will be greatly missed by his friends and family.

Leon Evans was born on December 29, 1936 to the late Leroy and Virginia Evans in Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Evans is a man who recognized the value of education early on in life. First attending school in Little Rock, Arkansas, he continued his education at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces in New Mexico. Later, Mr. Evans furthered his studies at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

Mr. Evans paid tribute to his county by serving in the United States Army from 1955 until his retirement on September 1, 1975. While in the Army, Mr. Evans was an instructor and fundamental Branch Supervisor at the U.S. Army Signal School in Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

After Mr. Evans distinguished service in the United States Army he worked at Siemens Communication Systems Inc. Transmission Systems in Mount Laurel, New Jersey and Iselin, New Jersey from 1976 to 1984.

Mr. Evans was self-employed from 1984 through 1987 operating a communications

service company. He later worked at Check-Mate Inc., where he provided his services to the Monmouth County area until his death.

In addition to his work ethic, Mr. Evans possessed a strong sense of community as exhibited by the various community memberships he held. Mr. Evan's was a member of Neptune's VFW Post #2639 and American Legion Post #266. He also served on the Democratic and Environmental Committees for Neptune Township and was a member of the Optimistic Social Club and the Over the Hill Gang.

I would also like to recognize Mr. Evans for his loving devotion to his family. He was married to his beloved wife, Wanda for 47 years. Together they raised five wonderful children, and enjoyed spending time with their seven grandchildren and great grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, Leon Evans had many friends and colleagues who affectionately knew him as hard working, dedicated, patriotic, and a civic-minded individual. His friends and family greatly enjoyed his company and will sorely miss him. On this day, I ask my fellow colleagues to join with me in honoring and remembering this extraordinary individual.

PANTHEON OF BLACK HEROES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I rise to introduce a se-

ries of bills—a Pantheon of Black Heroes—recognizing the historic achievements and contributions of African Americans. Several of these heroes resided and worked in the Harlem area, while others inspired or lent inspiration to our community.

The Pantheon of Black Heroes is part of my continuing effort, begun years ago, to officially recognize some of America's best and brightest. Black History Month presents us with another opportunity to highlight the achievements of these men and women. It is our opportunity to ensure that our stories are told as we have lived them, and as we would have them handed down to those who follow us.

I ask that my colleagues join with me in recognizing the vast contributions of these great African Americans.

Arthur Ashe, Ralph Bunche, Roy Campanella, Shirley Chisholm, Katherine Dunham, Marcus Garvey, Althea Gibson, Lionel Hampton, Dorothy Height, Zora Neale Hurstson, Jesse L. Jackson, Sr., Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Adam Clayton Power, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Sugar Ray Robinson, Arthur Schomburg, Betty Shabazz, Madame C.J. Walker, James L. Watson, and Malcolm X.