

Woodbury has successfully tackled a number of challenging transportation projects.

As chairman of the Regional Transportation Committee, Commissioner Woodbury was a driving force behind the construction of the Las Vegas Beltway and reducing traffic delays.

I commend my colleague for seeking to honor the numerous contributions of Commissioner Bruce Woodbury in this manner. I note that H.R. 2254 also enjoys the support of the Honorable Robert S. Ferraro, mayor of Boulder City, and members of the entire city council.

Mr. Speaker, I certainly concur in the passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the honorable gentleman from the State of Nevada (Mr. PORTER), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2254, legislation to name the United States Postal Service facility in Boulder City, Nevada, in honor of Clark County Commissioner Bruce Woodbury.

I introduced this legislation to pay tribute to one of southern Nevada's most distinguished citizens. I have worked closely with the members of the city council of Boulder City and the mayor of Boulder City, Robert Ferraro, to appropriately thank Commissioner Woodbury for his many contributions to the great State of Nevada and to our Nation.

Commissioner Woodbury is a native of Las Vegas and has resided in Boulder City, Nevada, since 1978. He is a graduate of Las Vegas High School and attended the University of Utah where he graduated Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Magna Cum Laude. Mr. Woodbury then attended Stanford School of Law where he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence and was a member of the Board of Editors of the Stanford Law Review.

In southern Nevada, Commissioner Woodbury has been active for many years as an outstanding civic leader. He has served as a member of the Clark County Commission for 21 years and on the Regional Transportation Commission of southern Nevada for 17 years, the last 11 as that body's chairman. He was also the founding father of the Clark County Regional Flood District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Mr. Speaker, the impact and the magnitude of his contributions are seen by Nevadans every day. Commissioner Woodbury was instrumental in gathering support for the construction of the Las Vegas Beltway, the largest and most visible transportation project ever undertaken in Clark County's history. Through his leadership, Commissioner Woodbury has worked to minimize traffic delays, reduce inconvenience for drivers, and maintain access to local businesses. In addition, Mr.

Woodbury has been very involved in local, civic, and youth organizations and is a proud father and grandfather.

It has been my privilege to work with Commissioner Woodbury on a variety of projects; and I can speak to his character as a leader, as a citizen, and as a friend.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, Bruce Woodbury is a quiet man. He actually was very embarrassed when I suggested we name the post office after him. Bruce does not like accolades. He is the first, the first man to give everyone else credit before taking credit for himself. Yes, he is quiet; but he is an effective leader, and he is one of the most visionary and caring individuals who has ever served as a public servant. His example sets the standard for all of us serving this great country.

Southern Nevada has grown almost threefold since Mr. Woodbury was elected, to almost 1.6 million people. There is not a project in Nevada that Mr. Woodbury has not touched, whether it be transportation, air quality, schools, health care, water quality, senior citizens, and taking care of our children.

As a matter of fact, when Bruce was first elected over 20 years ago, there was a major flood in southern Nevada. Bruce was there with a shovel helping citizens dig out their cars, their homes, their livestock, making sure they could get their families back in order. Bruce did not just sit back; Bruce then formed the Clark County Flood Control District. We have not had the same challenges that we had in 20 years because of Bruce Woodbury's leadership.

Let us talk about traffic for a second. Bruce travels to work about 20 miles every day and got tired of sitting around in traffic and decided to build and be the leader in developing the Las Vegas Beltway, because Bruce, although quiet, is effective and wanted to get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this body, I am truly honored to have served with Mr. Woodbury. He has been a mentor for me and many other public servants, and words truly cannot express my appreciation for all that he has done to improve the quality of life in Nevada.

I urge all of the Members of this body to support the legislation today.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers at this time. Again, I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Nevada, for introducing this important legislation; and I thank the gentleman from Illinois as well. I urge all Members to support the passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2254.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### COMMENDING MEDGAR WILEY EVERS AND MYRLIE EVERS-WILLIAMS FOR THEIR LIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 220) commending Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams, for their lives and accomplishments.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 220

Whereas a pioneer in the fight for racial justice, Medgar Wiley Evers, was born July 2, 1925, in Decatur, Mississippi, to James and Jessie Evers;

Whereas, to faithfully serve his country, Medgar Evers left high school to join the Army when World War II began and, after coming home to Mississippi, he completed high school, enrolled in Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College, presently known as Alcorn State University, and majored in business administration;

Whereas, as a student at Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College, Evers was a member of the debate team, the college choir, and the football and track teams, was the editor of the campus newspaper and the yearbook, and held several student offices, which gained him recognition in Who's Who in American Colleges;

Whereas, while a junior at Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College, Evers met a freshman named Myrlie Beasley, whom he married on December 24, 1951, and with whom he spent the remainder of his life;

Whereas, after Medgar Evers received a bachelor of arts degree, he moved to historic Mound Bayou, Mississippi, became employed by Magnolia Mutual Life Insurance Company, and soon began establishing local chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (referred to in this resolution as the "NAACP") throughout the Delta region;

Whereas, moved by the plight of African-Americans in Mississippi and a desire to change the conditions facing them, in 1954, after the United States Supreme Court ruled school segregation unconstitutional, Medgar Evers became the first known African-American person to apply for admission to the University of Mississippi Law School, but was denied that admission;

Whereas, as a result of that denial, Medgar Evers contacted the NAACP to take legal action;

Whereas, in 1954, Medgar Evers was offered a position as the Mississippi Field Secretary for the NAACP, and he accepted the position, making Myrlie Evers his secretary;

Whereas, with his wife by his side, Medgar Evers began a movement to register people to vote in Mississippi and, as a result of his activities, he received numerous threats;

Whereas, in spite of the threats, Medgar Evers persisted, with dedication and courage, to organize rallies, build the NAACP's membership, and travel around the country with Myrlie Evers to educate the public;

Whereas Medgar Evers' passion for quality education for all children led him to file suit

against the Jackson, Mississippi public schools, which gained him national media coverage;

Whereas Medgar Evers organized students from Tougaloo and Campbell Colleges, coordinated and led protest marches, organized boycotts of Jackson businesses and sit-ins, and challenged segregated bus seating, and for these heroic efforts, he was arrested, beaten, and jailed;

Whereas the violence against Medgar Evers came to a climax on June 12, 1963, when he was shot and killed in front of his home;

Whereas, after the fingerprints of an outspoken segregationist were recovered from the scene of the shooting, and 2 juries deadlocked without a conviction in the shooting case, Myrlie Evers and her 3 children moved to Claremont, California, where she enrolled in Pomona College and earned her bachelor's degree in sociology in 1968;

Whereas, after Medgar Evers' death, Myrlie Evers began to create her own legacy and emerged as a national catalyst for justice and equality by becoming active in politics, becoming a founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, running for Congress in California's 24th congressional district, serving as Commissioner of Public Works for Los Angeles, using her writing skills to serve as a correspondent for Ladies Home Journal and to cover the Paris Peace Talks, and rising to prominence as Director of Consumer Affairs for the Atlantic Richfield Company;

Whereas Myrlie Evers became Myrlie Evers-Williams when she married Walter Williams in 1976;

Whereas, in the 1990's, Evers-Williams convinced Mississippi prosecutors to reopen Medgar Evers' murder case, and the reopening of the case led to the conviction and life imprisonment of Medgar Evers' killer;

Whereas Evers-Williams became the first female to chair the 64-member Board of Directors of the NAACP, to provide guidance to an organization that was dear to Medgar Evers' heart;

Whereas Evers-Williams has published her memoirs, entitled "Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way to Becoming the Woman I Was Meant to Be", to enlighten the world about the struggles that plagued her life as the wife of an activist and empowered her to become a community leader;

Whereas Evers-Williams is widely known as a motivational lecturer and continues to speak out against discrimination and injustice;

Whereas her latest endeavor has brought her home to Mississippi to make two remarkable contributions, through the establishment of the Evers Collection and the Medgar Evers Institute, which advance the knowledge and cause of social injustice and which encompass the many lessons in the life's work of Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams;

Whereas Evers-Williams has presented the extraordinary papers in that Collection and Institute to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, where the papers are being preserved and catalogued; and

Whereas it is the policy of Congress to recognize and pay tribute to the lives and accomplishments of extraordinary Mississippians such as Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams, whose life sacrifices have contributed to the betterment of the lives of the citizens of Mississippi as well as the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—*

(1) Congress commends Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams, and expresses the greatest respect and gratitude of Congress, for their lives and accomplishments;

(2) Congress supports the establishment of a "Medgar Evers National Week of Remembrance"; and

(3) copies of this resolution shall be furnished to the family of Medgar Wiley Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution currently being considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 220, introduced by my distinguished colleague, the gentleman from the State of Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), commends Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams for their lives and accomplishments. I am proud that this House is considering this legislation, because it can serve as an important history lesson to all of those who witness these proceedings here today.

Mr. Speaker, as legislative business began this afternoon, we recited the Pledge of Allegiance on this floor as we do every day. But today it seems especially appropriate to revisit that vow just before this House honors a man and a woman who have lived their lives based on the belief that in this country, more than anywhere else in the world, there should surely be "liberty and justice for all."

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker, Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams are each remarkable civil rights leaders who have accomplished great deeds on behalf of countless Americans.

Medgar was born in Decatur, Mississippi, in 1925. He dropped out of high school at the age of 17 to join the Army during World War II. When he safely returned home, he completed high school and went on to attend and graduate from Alcorn A&M College. He landed a job with an insurance agency before becoming a field secretary to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Jackson, Mississippi.

Medgar soon met a young Mississippi woman named Myrlie who also worked for the NAACP, and they married in 1951. Tragically, 12 years later, Medgar Evers was dreadfully shot and killed outside his home.

Despite this unbelievable heartbreak, Myrlie Evers-Williams has carried on. She soon moved to Claremont, California, with her three children to begin

a new life. Among her many subsequent accomplishments Ms. Evers-Williams became the first black woman to serve on the Los Angeles Board of Public Works where she oversaw nearly 6,000 public employees and a budget of \$400 million. In addition, she was the first woman elected to chair the NAACP in 1995 and continues to be a valuable asset to the association as chairman emeritus.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind this House that last Thursday was the 40th anniversary of the tragic assassination of Medgar Evers that occurred on June 12, 1963. Early this afternoon, a national day of remembrance was observed at Medgar Evers' grave site in Arlington National Cemetery. This sober and beautiful event marked the end of the Medgar Evers National Week of Remembrance organized by the Medgar Evers Institute founded last year by Myrlie Evers-Williams. The week featured events across the State of Mississippi, including celebration of his life in Newton, a prayer and candlelight vigil in Jackson, and a symposium on his works and achievements in Tougaloo.

Mr. Speaker, for all these reasons, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 220 that honors the lives of these two fine people, Medgar Wiley Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams. I sincerely thank my colleague from Mississippi for introducing this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas for his remarks, and I am pleased to join with him as we consider H. Con. Res. 220, a bill commending Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow Myrlie Evers-Williams for their lives and accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, on June 12, 1963, a black civil rights activist was murdered in front of his home and became a martyr for the cause. On that same day, that very same day, his wife became even more committed to the cause and to the work that they were doing.

Medgar Wiley Evers was born July 2, 1925, near Decatur, Mississippi, and attended school there until he was inducted into the Army in 1943. After serving in Normandy, France, he attended Alcorn College, where he met Myrlie Beasley of Vicksburg, Mississippi. They were married the next year on December 14, 1951.

After receiving his degree, Medgar Evers moved to Mound Bayou, Mississippi, during which time he began to establish local chapters of the NAACP throughout the Delta and organizing boycotts of gasoline stations that refused to allow blacks to use their restrooms.

He worked in Mound Bayou as an insurance agent until 1954, the year a Supreme Court decision ruled school desegregation unconstitutional. Despite

the Court's rulings, Evers applied for and was denied admission to the University of Mississippi Law School. His actions caught the attention of the NAACP's national office, and he was appointed Mississippi's first field secretary for the NAACP.

Medgar and Myrlie moved to Jackson where they worked together to set up the NAACP office, began to investigate violent crimes committed against blacks and rallied civil rights demonstrators and organized voter registration drives.

On June 12, 1963, a few hours after President Kennedy had made an extraordinary broadcast to the Nation on the subject of civil rights, Medgar Evers was shot in the back and killed. It was then that Myrlie Evers-Williams began her relentless search for her husband's killer.

Medgar Evers's accused killer, Byron De La Beckworth, a white segregationist, was tried and released after two hung jury mistrials. Despite these initial defeats, Myrlie Evers-Williams continued searching for new evidence in the case. Mr. Beckworth was finally convicted in 1994 and sentenced to life in prison.

In June of 1988, Myrlie Evers-Williams became the first black woman to be appointed to the Los Angeles five-member Board of Public Works. In 1995, she ascended to the national chairmanship of the NAACP and served until 1998. She had written two books, one, "For Us, the Living," and two, "Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way to Becoming the Woman I was Meant to Be."

One can look at the number of black elected officials in Mississippi—today the State that has more African Americans elected to public office than any other State in the Nation—and when we do that we see the work of Medgar and Myrlie. Look at the number of blacks enrolled in each of Mississippi's public and private institutions of higher learning, and we see the work of Medgar and Myrlie. We can look at the former Secretary of Agriculture, Mike Espy. We can look at State Senator David Jordan, and of course, we can look at the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), a Member of this body and the originator of this legislation.

When we look at all of that development, we see the work, we see the impact, we see the influence, we see the lives of Medgar and Myrlie Evers. So it is indeed altogether fitting and proper that, on this day, I am often reminded of the fact that the Constitution of the United States of America suggests that all men, I guess if we were writing it today, it would say "all men and women, are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, and that among those would be life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Medgar and Myrlie Evers pursued rights, not only for themselves but rights for others, and as a result of that pursuit, he gave the most precious

thing that one could ever have and the most precious thing that one could ever give, that is, indeed, his life. So I am pleased to join with those who would pause on this day to pay tribute to their lives and to their legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS).

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 220, introduced by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING.)

The resolution before us today commends two wonderful people for their wisdom and their vision. Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow Myrlie Evers-Williams were pioneers in the fight for racial justice. Today, we honor them for their efforts and recognize them for their accomplishments.

With a desire to change the conditions facing African Americans in Mississippi, Medgar Evers became the first African American to apply for admission to the University of Mississippi Law School. But in 1954, even after the United States Supreme Court ruled segregation unconstitutional, Mr. Evers was denied admission.

With his wife at his side, Medgar Evers began a movement to register voters in Mississippi. In spite of personal threats, he persevered. His dedication to the improvement of education for all children, regardless of race, led him to challenge the segregationist systems in Jackson, Mississippi public schools. He continued to challenge segregation at every level from educational services to bus seating.

Although Mr. Evers' life was tragically brought to a premature end, his widow Myrlie Evers-Williams remains an effective voice against discrimination and injustice. Through the establishment of the Evers Collection and the Medgar Evers Institute, she advances the knowledge of the many lessons learned through their lives and through their experiences.

This resolution is a way in which to remember the challenges that Myrlie Evers-Williams and Medgar Evers faced and overcame.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate their work. I appreciate their sacrifice. I appreciate the fact that they pursued a life to improve the lives of African Americans, certainly in this Nation, but they also improved the lives of men, women and children of all races and all faces around the globe.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As I continue to listen and to hear of the great works and the exploits of Myrlie and Medgar Evers, it occurred to me that in order to have a full appreciation that one perhaps should

have been living during that time. It just happened for me that I lived not very far from Mississippi at that time.

I was a young child growing up in the State of Arkansas and actually lived only about 25 miles from Mississippi, and so I knew a great deal about Mississippi and had relatives who lived in Mississippi, and so we would drive across the Mississippi River at Greenville and go and visit in places like Mound Bayou and Cleveland and Schuller and Lexington and Greenwood and all through the Delta back the other way.

There was an environment, there was an atmosphere, as a matter of fact, my brothers and I would sometimes kid ourselves because our father would never have to chastise us in the car to be quiet when we got to Mississippi. I mean, there was a feeling and once we crossed the bridge, we would immediately become silent, and he did not have to say, "You all be quiet, sit down, do not do things."

Then when one travels to Mississippi today, they see a very different Mississippi. They see a Mississippi that in many ways has transformed itself from the Mississippi of the past to the Mississippi of the present and moving on to the Mississippi of the future.

One can attribute much of that change to Medgar and Myrlie Evers. One can attribute much of that change to the era known as the civil rights period, the movement, the marches, the demonstrations, the willingness of people to say that change is so necessary until I am willing to run the risk of being violated or being mutilated of doing whatever it takes to move out of the dark ages to the brightness of possibility of what it is that tomorrow can and should bring.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) should be walking in the door at any moment, but while he is about to walk into the door, I know one who was indeed a part of the struggle during that period and was an eloquent voice for civil rights and human rights and for the movement of all people then, as she is today.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

□ 1530

Ms. NORTON. I very much thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank the chairman for bringing this bill forward; and, of course, I thank my good colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), for introducing this bill.

While this bill has national significance for our country, it has personal significance for me. Of course Medgar Evers is remembered for the sacrifice of his life for human rights in this country. I was an impressionable young law student who had been asked to come to the delta, not to Jackson, but to the delta to help prepare for what became the 1964 freedom summer

by doing a pilot for the voter registration schools that we would do ultimately for people on the farms who wanted to learn how to register and vote, a very hard thing to do in Mississippi at the time.

When I came, of course I came not to the delta first but to Jackson and was told to go to the office of the NAACP. I wanted very much to meet Medgar Evers, because it had been national publicity that the sit-ins had only that summer begun in Mississippi. We were through with the sit-ins in the rest of the country. We were on to the next stage of the civil rights movement. But I will tell you, Mississippi was another kettle of fish; and they had been beaten brutally for sitting in.

In the summer of 1963, I wanted to see this brave man. What Medgar Evers tried to do was to kidnap me from the delta. I was a law student at a time when there were very few African American law students, and he wanted me to work in the NAACP office. But I had promised Bob Moses in Greenwood, Mississippi, that I would come there. So instead, he took me all around Jackson to various places so that I could meet people in the Jackson movement.

He took me to his home to meet his extraordinary wife, Myrlie Evers, now Williams; and we met the children, the very little children. And then Medgar Evers took me to the bus station, put me on the bus for Greenwood, Mississippi, and the people got me off the bus in Greenwood, Mississippi, and took me to a farmer's house. And there I was on the morning of June 12.

The sharecropper and his wife had gone off to pick string beans, but they had told me the night before how to take a bath in a tin tub. I said, all right, that's something I have never done before, city girl that I am. And I shall never forget. This is one of the searing moments of my life, when the very young people from the Greenwood Student Nonviolent Coordinating office came and said, "Eleanor, aren't you the student that came in last night? Medgar Evers has been shot and killed."

Medgar Evers was shot and killed as he left, obviously, that night going back to his own home having put me on the bus. Well, when you're sitting in a tin tub your first day in the delta and you learn that one of the great heroes of the civil rights movement, who you just left 8 hours before, has been murdered, you have a memory that will last for a lifetime of a man who our country will remember for a lifetime.

Everybody was gone. People were off raising money. It turned out that I was the senior person. I became the senior person in the SNCC office because other young people were off in the north raising money, and it fell to me to call everybody together to go to the church to do what we always did when one of those terrible things happened in our country.

I want to say that as a young lawyer, young law student, I had to remind

myself that I was going to law school because I had faith in the justice system of our country. It took 40 years, but, in fact, the killer of Medgar Evers was brought to justice. Myrlie Evers, all that time made it her business to press for justice and, in fact, got justice. She went on to become the Chair of the NAACP itself, carrying on the work of Medgar Evers.

I shall never forget this gentle man and how he described the brutality that he had faced, as if that is what you should expect and we have to keep going in until it gets done. And the interesting thing is it had gotten done, at least that part of it had gotten done, everywhere but in Mississippi. Mississippi was then a closed part of the country. It was what we meant by terrorism.

The murders of Cheney, Goodman, and Schwerner would occur thereafter; and there are untold murders that will never see the justice that Medgar Evers has since seen, for Myrlie Evers-Williams, for the Evers children who were left without a father, a man who had served in World War II, in Normandy; that the day would come when the House of Representatives would in fact recognize what he did for our country should restore, should restore the faith of those who sometimes lose faith in our justice system.

Justice was done in Mississippi, we will do justice throughout our country, and I thank the gentleman once again for yielding me this time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time we have left.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING), a cosponsor of this legislation.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House as a proud cosponsor of this resolution to commend Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers. I had the great privilege of coming from Arlington Cemetery where we gathered with people from all across the country, all across my State to remember the life and the legacy of Medgar Evers today. The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), who is the lead sponsor of this resolution, will soon join us.

It was 40 years ago that Mississippi lost one of her bright stars. His flame was extinguished by ignorance and hatred, yet his light shines on. Today, we do not mourn; we celebrate his life. We celebrate his courage; we celebrate his commitment for equal justice, equal protection, equality of opportunity, equality of education, and equal political rights.

And when we look at his legacy today, I am a son of Mississippi. I am 40 years old this year. In 2 months, I celebrate my 40th birthday. My first grade class was integrated. I had the

great privilege of attending public schools that were integrated. Political rights came about not only through Medgar Evers but many others who struggled during that time so that Mississippi now, in many ways, is making progress, with the highest number of African American elected officials in the land.

So educationally, economically, and politically Medgar Evers' legacy lives on. My colleague asked the question, did he make a difference? Can one man make a difference? Today, I watched as Myrlie Evers, with her, her daughter, her children, her grandchildren, talked about the rich legacy of their father, her husband, of making a difference in my home State of Mississippi and across this country.

We from Mississippi love our State. We love our people. We want to overcome the sins and the struggles of the past. We want to find common ground. We want to find a dialogue. We want to find common values and a common purpose to move our State forward. Today, in remembrance of Medgar Evers and finding ways to reconcile the differences of the present, to overcome the wrong, we now look to the future of how we can come together as a State and as a people to honor Medgar Evers and the principles for which he stood: for freedom, for courage, from overcoming fear, to finding equal opportunity and equal rights.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PICKERING. I yield to the gentleman from Mississippi, my good friend and colleague, who is the lead sponsor of this; and I am glad that we could come to the floor and work together and remember a great Mississippian, Medgar Evers.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING), my colleague, for this opportunity. I would like to pay tribute also to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), who held the fort down while we were out at Arlington Cemetery paying a special tribute to the person we are honoring here today, as well as his widow, Myrlie Evers.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of America's most undercelebrated martyr of the civil rights movement, Medgar Wiley Evers. Born in Decatur, Mississippi, Medgar dedicated the 37 years of his life to the causes of racial equality and the equal opportunity movement. As a 15-year-old boy in Bolton, Mississippi, I recall one of Medgar's last televised speeches. He said, "Tonight, the Negro plantation worker in the delta knows from his radio and television what happened today all over the world. He knows what black people are doing and he knows what white people are doing. He can see on the 6 o'clock news screen the picture of the 3 o'clock bite by the police dog. He knows about the new

free nation of Africa and he knows that a Congo native can be a locomotive engineer, but in Jackson he cannot even drive a garbage truck."

Medgar spoke those words 40 years ago, Mr. Speaker, just days before his assassination. He described a time and place that many African Americans still know all too well. Medgar's legacy is one of opportunity. He often spoke of political, economic, and educational opportunities. Today, we are faced with many of the same challenges. While the poll tax and the literacy tests are no more, the Voting Rights Act, which was enacted 2 years before Medgar's assassination, is still needed to protect the interests of African Americans and other minorities.

I join my colleagues who have been on the floor here today in paying tribute to a great Mississippian, one who paid the ultimate sacrifice, Mr. Speaker, which is to give one's life for what he or she believes in. So part of what we commemorate today is not only Medgar Wiley Evers but his widow, who carried on in his stead. She headed the NAACP, she carried on a number of other organizations, and as we speak today, she has started the Medgar Evers Institute, which will carry on the life and legacy of her assassinated husband. For that we owe Medgar a debt of gratitude.

I am honored to stand here today, Mr. Speaker, and pay tribute and honor to a man who so many of us are indebted to. After all, Medgar was right: "You can kill a man, but you can't kill an idea."

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor America's most under-celebrated martyr of the Civil Rights Movement, Medgar Wiley Evers. Born in Decatur, MS, Medgar dedicated the 37 years of his life to the causes of racial equality and equal opportunity. As a 15-year-old boy in Bolton, MS, I recall one of Medgar's last televised speeches. He said:

Tonight the Negro plantation worker in the Delta knows from his radio and television what happened today all over the world. He knows what black people are doing and he knows what white people are doing. He can see on the 6:00 o'clock news screen the picture of a 3:00 o'clock bite by a police dog. He knows about the new free nations in Africa and knows that a Congo native can be a locomotive engineer, but in Jackson he cannot even drive a garbage truck.

He sees a city over 150,000, of which 40% is Negro, in which there is not a single Negro policeman or policewoman, school crossing guard, fireman, clerk, stenographer or supervisor employed in any city department or the Mayor's office in other than menial capacities . . .

What then does the Negro want? He wants to get rid of racial segregation in Mississippi life . . . The Negro citizen wants to register and vote without special handicaps imposed on him alone . . . The Negro Mississippian wants more jobs above the menial level in stores where he spends his money. He believes that new industries that have come to Mississippi should employ him above the laboring category. He wants the public schools and colleges desegregated so that his children can receive the best education that Mississippi has to offer.

40 YEARS WASN'T THAT LONG AGO

Medgar spoke those words 40 years ago, just days before his assassination. He described a time and place that many African-Americans still know all-too-well. Medgar's legacy is one of opportunity. He often spoke of political, economic and educational opportunities. Today, we are faced with many of the same challenges. While the poll tax and the literacy test are no more, the Voting Rights Act—which was enacted 2 years after Medgar's assassination—is still needed to protect the political interests of African-Americans and other minorities. Mississippi still trumps the rights of her African-American citizens by seizing their land in the name of economic development, then kicking them out of the development. For the last 28 years, Mississippi resisted the efforts of her African-American children to end discrimination at her colleges and universities. Medgar's legacy tells us to embrace the opportunity to make racial equality a reality.

Today, I encourage young people to continue the fight Medgar so bravely began. Medgar Evers is proof that sometimes the good die young. So, the least we can do is to live our lives in such a way that his dying will not have been in vain.

I want to commend Myrlie Evers-Williams and the Medgar Evers Institute for carrying Medgar's torch. As advocates for change, we understand that June 12, 1963, signaled the start of a new chapter in Mississippi and American history. I am proud to say that today, Congress will recognize the enormous contribution Medgar and Myrlie have made and continue to make to, not just Black history, but American history. Their tireless dedication to the disenfranchised is nothing less than admirable. No Mississippian did more to empower the disenfranchised than Medgar Evers.

For that, we all owe him a debt of gratitude. I am honored to stand here today and honor the man to whom so many of us are indebted. After all, Medgar was right—"You can kill a man, but you can't kill an idea."

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining on our side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) has 7 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING), for the purposes of control.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Mississippi will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to commend the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING) and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for introducing this legislation. I also want to commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and say what a pleasure it has been to work with him this afternoon. I appreciated his comments and the pleasure of having the opportunity to work with him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to yield the balance of my time to

the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) to close out for our side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Mississippi will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, we have celebrated, in some respects, the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Medgar Wiley Evers who, in his lifetime, was misunderstood by a number of Americans.

□ 1545

But here we are 40 years from that date on the floor of Congress, many people watching us who probably had not been afforded the right to vote when he was assassinated, but this is the majesty and honor of this country that we serve in that, believe it or not, that hands who pick elected officials who used to pick cotton can now pick Members of Congress. It is in that spirit that we offer this resolution not only for Medgar Wiley Evers, but also for his widow, Myrlie Evers, who has carried on his life and legacy, his spirit and his enthusiasm for making this country a better place.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. I yield to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to simply say that perhaps the greatest monument to Medgar Wiley Evers would be to see the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) on this floor. The notion in 1963 that there could be an African American in the Congress of the United States from the State of Mississippi was very far removed from where we were. We were literally trying to get a cup of coffee and trying to teach people how to respond to the people at the voter registration place just to get the right to vote.

The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) is the first African American to be elected from the State since Reconstruction. In his own right, he is an historic figure and one that people who love freedom around the country are proud of, precisely because of the reputation of Mississippi. That is Mississippi before. The gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) represents Mississippi after. This is a State where a third of the voters are African Americans, more voters are African Americans than in any other State, and one might expect that there would be more than one African American in Congress, and yet when the gentleman pressed through to become the first in the 20th century, it was a real landmark. Therefore, it seems to me it is appropriate that he would have made it back from the cemetery where Medgar Wiley Evers' life was commemorated to have this moment on the floor, which is perhaps the moment, the moment when the gentleman from Mississippi

rushed in to make sure he could speak on the floor of the House of Representatives.

If Medgar Wiley Evers lived for any moment, it is for this moment.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments.

Mr. Speaker, it was a different day. It is a date that if Medgar Wiley Evers were here, he would be very proud to see debate on this floor, to see individuals from all walks of life representing people here. This is what democracy is all about. I appreciate all that has been said. It is in this spirit that we move forward from this day, not just in my State, but in this country to make it indeed a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for his leadership on the resolution today, for asking me to join with him, as we at the Arlington Cemetery joined together today not only with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), but Senator COCHRAN, who led this resolution in the Senate last week, and Senator LOTT, who was present at the cemetery today, shows that not only does an idea live on, but the example of courage and also the attitude of wanting not only to love all people, to find a way that not only did we demand the equality and the freedom that God gives us, but then we find a way to work together and come together. I think the message from Myrlie Evers today and from the other speakers, from the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), is in the best sense not only the best example from Mississippi, but one of the best examples for our Nation as we try to heal the wounds and reconcile and work together, and to continue the work and the commitment of equal opportunity for all of our people and all of our citizens.

I am proud to represent the home of Edgar Evers in east central Mississippi, Newton County and Decatur. Last week, Mississippians from all over the State joined to celebrate his birthplace and to commemorate his life and his death 40 years ago, but it was in one of the regions that some of the most violent and hateful struggles, and now 40 years later, all races, all backgrounds, all political parties coming to pay tribute to Medgar Wiley Evers and his family. It is a tribute and example of what our Nation has become and what our State has become and is becoming, but it reminds us that we still have much to do, and that the commitment of Medgar Evers who has harassed, intimidated, beaten and who was eventually killed, that that example, that life lived, makes us all recommit and renew and hope for the great idea, the great ideal and the redemption and the potential and the promise of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON) for his leadership on this issue, and thank all of the Evers family for what they have meant to our home State and to our Nation.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to offer my thoughts on H. Con. Res. 220, a resolution commending Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams, for their lives and accomplishments.

I strongly support this resolution to commend Medgar Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams, who were true heroes in their fight for justice, peace, and civil rights.

Medgar and Myrlie set up the first NAACP office in Mississippi, and fought tirelessly to desegregate local businesses and schools. They advocated boycotts of businesses that discriminated against blacks, fought for the enforcement of Brown vs. Board of Education, and helped James Meredith gain admittance to the University of Mississippi. Their efforts made not only Mississippi a better place, made America a better place.

On June 12, 1963, Medgar Evers made the ultimate sacrifice for his beliefs—he was shot in the back and killed. Myrlie later wrote about their struggles and their life together in a book entitled "For us, the Living", which I read as a young man. Her story of how humble and decent people fought hard to make a real difference in the lives of millions inspired me.

I regret that I cannot be here in person to vote on this important resolution, but as we recognize the 40th anniversary of Medgar Evers' assassination and commend him and his widow, the reason why I'm not able to vote is a particularly special one. One June 11, my wife Sara and I welcomed a son into the world, whom we proudly named Jack Evers Smith.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with my congressional colleagues to honor the enduring legacy of Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams for their lives of service and commitment to racial equality.

Medgar Wiley Evers, was born on July 2, 1925 in Decatur, Mississippi. In 1943, Mr. Evers left high school early and joined the U.S. Army to faithfully serve his country during WWII. After completing his military duties, Mr. Evers completed his high school education and enrolled at Alcorn College in Mississippi. It was here, at Alcorn College, that he met his future wife Myrlie Beasley in 1950. The following year, on December 24, 1951, the two were married.

After completing his undergraduate education Evers and his wife moved to Mound Bayou, Mississippi where they both became deeply involved in the unfolding civil rights era. During his time in Mound Bayou, Evers helped to establish local chapters of the NAACP throughout the Delta and organize boycotts of local gas stations that refused to allow blacks access to their restroom facilities. In 1954, the legendary ruling of Brown vs. Board of Education was passed deeming school segregation of any form legally unconstitutional. Yet despite this groundbreaking legal victory, efforts to actualize the legislation by means of school integration proved to be difficult at best. Mr. Evers applied to and was subsequently denied admission to the University of Mississippi Law School. And while his efforts to

integrate the state's oldest public university were constantly ridiculed and criticized by traditionalists, Evers's willingness to fight the racial injustices of the time attracted the attention of many, including the national office of the NAACP.

Mr. Evers was ultimately appointed as the first Field Secretary for the NAACP; Myrlie Evers was his assistant. With her by his side, Medgar Evers worked diligently to register voters in Mississippi. His desire to encourage and promote the political empowerment of African-Americans throughout the south made him the target of violent threats against his life. However, despite the vicious verbal attacks against him, Evers and his wife continued with dedication and courage. They organized rallies and educated the public about the injustices of racial discrimination and the inequality that continued to exist in the public school system. His desire for quality education for all children even led him to file suit against the Jackson, Mississippi public school system. From there, Mr. Evers proceeded to organize college students, coordinate protest marches, organize boycotts of businesses in Jackson, arrange student sit-ins, and challenge the segregated bus system.

Throughout his life, Mr. Evers maintained that "violence is not the way." However even he was not able to avoid the violence that racial hatred produces. On June 12, 1963, Medgar Evers was shot and killed by an assassin's bullet in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi.

Myrlie Evers was known to say that "you can kill a man, but you can't kill an idea." In the years after her husband's assassination, Myrlie Evers dedicated herself to the preservation of her husband's memory by promoting those same ideas for which he ultimately gave his life. Even after remarrying, Mrs. Evers is often remembered for the diligent and often lonely battle she waged to bring Medgar Evers's killer to justice. Two trials resulting in two hung juries allowed the accused gunman to walk free. It was in 1994 that Byron De La Beckwith was brought to trial for yet a third time and was ultimately found guilty of the murder of Medgar Evers, more than 30 years after the crime was committed. This was the moment for which she had hoped and prayed, and now she could peacefully move on with the next chapter of her life.

On Feb 18, 1995, Myrlie-Evers Williams became the first woman elected to chair the National Board of Directors of the NAACP, a position that she held until 1998. In 1999, she published her memoirs, entitled "Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way To Becoming the Woman I Was Meant To Be", which chronicles her journey from being the wife of a civil rights activist to becoming an acclaimed community leader in her own right. Having lived some of the most difficult times in her life in the face of public scrutiny, Myrlie Evers-Williams has accepted the fate that has been handed to her. She says: "I have reached a point in my life where I understand the pain and the challenges; and my attitude is one of standing up with open arms to meet them all."

The contributions made by both Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams to our society are immeasurable. Their tireless efforts to advocate for civil rights during a time when our Nation failed to enforce the fundamental principles of freedom, equality, and justice for all citizens, speaks to the enormous impact these

two individuals have had on our society. It is in this vein that I celebrate the life, legacy, and collective spirit of Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams.

I would like to thank Representative THOMPSON for sponsoring this resolution and I wholeheartedly support H. Con. Res. 220.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, the names Medgar and Myrlie Evers have been well known to me as a Mississippian since my youth. And there is no mistaking that the Mississippi of my youth was far different from today. Today's tribute to these two outstanding civil rights leaders provides an opportunity to look at the progress our State and our Nation have made in pursuit of equality, racial harmony, and reconciliation.

Medgar Evers was a man of principle who was not afraid to stand up for his convictions during a difficult time in our history. Myrlie Evers embodies the virtues of perseverance, faith, and belief in justice. Their legacy is one of courage and commitment to bring social change to Mississippi and to the Nation.

The impact Medgar Evers had on voting registration, black representation, and social justice is significant and lasting. Likewise, the effect Myrlie Evers-Williams has had as a national leader for all African Americans is a legacy to be cherished.

An on-line search for "Medgar Evers" returns 29,600 sites. Among them are "Sergeant, U.S. Army"; "Encyclopedia Britannica Guide to Black History"; "The Writings of Medgar Evers"; and "Medgar Evers College". From the shores of Normandy as a World War II veteran to the back roads of the Mississippi Delta to the streets of New York City, Medgar Evers made a lasting impact.

Many people know the story of Medgar Evers and his wife Myrlie from the acclaimed movie, "The Ghosts of Mississippi". They were leaders throughout their lives and determined to pursue a better life for African Americans in a nonviolent manner. It is ironic that the man who so often said, "Violence is not the way," would die a violent death outside his home in Jackson. As Medgar said before his death, "Freedom has never been free . . . I love my children and I love my wife with all my heart, and I would die, die gladly, if that would make a better life for them."

Even in death, Evers proved to be one of the most influential civil rights activists ever. His death led to John F. Kennedy's final push for a civil rights bill to ban segregation. It also sparked several marches in honor of Evers and in protest of the injustices of the South.

Hours after his death, his wife Myrlie addressed a crowd and said, "Nothing can bring Medgar back, but the cause can live on." How prophetic she was that night. She went on to become the Chair of the NAACP, and she has created the Medgar Evers Institute, which is helping to continue fostering the principles by which he lived and died.

Medgar Evers would be proud of the progress we have made in our native State over these past 40 years. We celebrate his legacy today by acknowledging that more work remains to be done and resolving to join together to continue his vision of achieving racial harmony and equal opportunity for all.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 220 and to pay tribute to the life and works of Medgar Wiley Evers.

Medgar Evers was a true pioneer in the fight for racial justice in Mississippi.

Organizing for the NAACP meant defying the political establishment, founded on white supremacy. It was an act of supreme courage and frankly of patriotism: Medgar Evers fought to make this country live up to its own ideals. He became the first known African-American person to apply for admission to the University of Mississippi Law School, and was denied admission.

As a result of that denial, Medgar Evers contacted the NAACP to take legal action, and found himself centered in a movement that he felt compelled to advance. As a result of this new commitment, Medgar Evers was offered a position as the Mississippi Field Secretary for the NAACP.

Mr. Evers established local chapters of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People throughout the Delta region in order to change the social, political, and economic condition of African Americans.

Placing his life and family in jeopardy, he consistently put the movement for equality above his own safety and security.

While organizing students from Tougaloo and Campbell Colleges, leading protest marches for equal and quality education, organizing boycotts of Jackson businesses and sit-ins, and challenging segregated bus seating he was targeted by racist police and community groups, arrested, beaten, and even jailed.

The violence against Medgar Evers climaxed on June 12, 1963, when he was shot and killed in front of his own home, dying in front of his own wife and children. Although the racist factions in the Deep South thought they had silenced the great hero and his message; this tragedy catapulted Myrlie Evers into the face of Southern institutionalized racism as she fought for 31 years to have Medgar Evers' killer, Byron De La Beckwith, brought to justice. He was convicted in 1994.

We stand and pledge allegiance that our country will strive to someday provide liberty and justice for all people. The murder of Medgar Evers and the pursuit of justice exemplifies this ongoing struggle and reminds us that the United States has a long, and dark past of racism that we must confront and continue to remedy with racial healing and understanding, with affirmative action, equal opportunity, and access to jobs and education.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 220, a resolution commending the life and accomplishments of Medgar Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams.

History sometimes overlooks great Americans and forgets amazing accomplishments. The actions of Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams are too great, too significant to be forgotten. Their accomplishments and sacrifices should not only be footnotes. Their lives should be celebrated and honored.

H. Con. Res. 220 lets America remember the names of these civil rights heroes. Medgar Evers was field secretary of the Mississippi State NAACP and after Medgar's death Myrlie Evers-Williams became chair of the board of directors of the NAACP. They fought for civil rights. They fought for human rights. They fought for someone like me to be considered equal in the eyes of the law and in the eyes of my fellow Americans.

They set up economic boycotts of Jackson, Mississippi businesses that discriminated against African Americans. They worked for school desegregation, helping James Meredith become the first black student at the white-

only University of Mississippi. Perhaps most importantly, they fought to secure voting rights for African Americans in the South.

Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams suffered greatly for their courage. They endured shouts, jeers, and threats of violence. And then on June 12, 1963, Medgar Evers was assassinated by white supremacists.

Unfortunately, it wasn't until after his death that Medgar Evers won the NAACP's prestigious Springarn Medal in 1963. And it wasn't until 1970 that Medgar Evers College was founded as a senior college of the City University of New York.

But today we will start singing his praise. And we will not stop. Today, we can place Medgar Evers and his widow Myrlie Evers-Williams on the list of civil rights heroes. Their names should be spoken in line with Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks. People will know their stories. Know their deeds. And know their accomplishments.

It is time. It is time to remember and never forget these two great civil rights heroes. These two great Americans.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two of the Nation's most outstanding civil rights leaders, Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams, on the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Medgar Evers. During the 1950s and 1960s, at the height of the civil rights movement, Evers battled racial injustice in his home state of Mississippi by becoming a prominent member of the NAACP in Jackson, Mississippi. He inspired others to utilize peaceful methods of protest to speak out against racial inequality through boycotts, sit-ins, and demonstrations. Myrlie Evers-Williams stood by her husband in the fight for civil rights by serving as his partner in organizing public demonstrations and his secretary when he became Mississippi's first field secretary for the NAACP. After his assassination, she emerged as a prominent figure in the realm of public service by serving on the Los Angeles Board of Public Works and eventually becoming the chairwoman of the NAACP. It is for these reasons, that I wish to acknowledge these two accomplished individuals. As I provide a short biographical sketch of Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams, I encourage you to read Myrlie Evers-Williams' published memoirs to better understand the amazing accomplishments of these two individuals.

Medgar Wiley Evers, the son of James and Jessie, was born in Decatur, Mississippi on July 2, 1925. Evers put his high school education on hold to serve his country in the Battle of Normandy during World War II. Once he returned the completed high school and then earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College where he met Myrlie Beasley from Vicksburg, Mississippi who he later married on December 24, 1951. He gained recognition in Who's Who in American Colleges for his active participation in his college's choir, debate team, football and track teams and his service to the college's newspaper and student government offices. While he worked as an insurance salesman in Mound Bayou, Mississippi he began to establish small chapters of the NAACP in the Mississippi Delta region. During that time he also began coordinating boycotts of gas stations that prohibited African-Americans from using their bathrooms. When segregation in public schools was ruled unconstitutional with the

Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka Supreme Court decision, Evers decided to apply to the University of Mississippi Law School being the first African-American to do so. He was denied admission thus his desire to fight racial injustice was further ignited. His rejection from the law school grabbed the attention of the NAACP's national office. Later that year, he was named the NAACP's first field secretary for Mississippi. He and his wife then moved to Jackson, Mississippi to establish the Jackson office of the NAACP. Because he was denied admission to the University's law school, he played an instrumental role in the admission of another African-American man James Meredith. In addition to encouraging and organizing African-American communities in Mississippi to participate in public demonstrations, he also urged them to take advantage of their voting rights because of his own voting experience in which he tried to vote in Decatur in 1946, but was turned away by white supremacists. Disregarding the numerous threats he received, Evers continued to publicly speak out against racial inequality, boycott discriminatory merchants, and encourage African-American communities in Mississippi to do the same until he was assassinated in his driveway on June 12, 1963. His brother Charles carried on his work with the NAACP after his death. In 1970, a senior college, part of the City University of New York, was named in his honor. Medgar Evers College is located in Crown Heights in Brooklyn, New York.

The tragic death of her husband led Myrlie Evers-Williams to move her family to California where she attended Pomona College. After earning her bachelor's degree in sociology, she began her career in public service as assistant director of planning and development for the Claremont College system. She later moved to Los Angeles to begin a job as the consumer affairs director for the Atlantic Richfield Company and in 1975 she married Walter Williams. In 1988, she became the first African-American woman to serve on the Los Angeles Board of Public Works when she was appointed by mayor Tom Bradley. During the early 1990s she pressured Mississippi prosecutors to reopen the case on her first husband's assassination. She eventually succeeded and finally in 1994, Medgar Evers' killer was found guilty by a jury and sentenced to life in prison. One year later, she was appointed the first female chair of the NAACP. Sadly, she also lost her second husband to prostate cancer that year. In 1999, her autobiography entitled, *Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way To Becoming the Woman I Was Meant To Be*, was published. Her autobiography focuses on her life as the wife of a civil rights activist and a community leader.

Medgar Evers and Myrlie Evers-Williams have both made their mark in American history and will always be known for their pioneering efforts in American society.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 220 that honors the lives and accomplishments of civil rights leaders Medgar Wiley Evers and his widow, Myrlie Evers-Williams. I want to thank Congressman BENNIE THOMPSON for introducing and bringing this meaningful resolution to the floor.

Although their lives and contribution cannot be simply summarized in a few paragraphs, I want to nevertheless pay tribute to these two great civil rights leaders.

As a State senator from California representing parts of Los Angeles, I had the pleasure of working with Myrlie Evers-Williams during her tenure as a member of the Los Angeles Board of Public Works. As the first African American woman on the Board, Myrlie oversaw the management of nearly \$1 billion in city budget and a staff of 5,000 employees.

However, my admiration of Myrlie's work started over 50 years ago, when she partnered with her husband, Medgar Evers, to advance racial justice in the hostile environment of the 1950s. Medgar had been one of the early principle leaders of the civil rights movement, boldly registering to vote and applying for admission to the University of Mississippi Law School in the early 1950s. In 1954 Medgar became the Mississippi State field secretary for the NAACP and, together with Myrlie, they organized voter registration drives and civil rights demonstrations.

As visible leaders of the movement, the Evers became high-profile targets of terrorist acts of pro-segregationists. Despite the threats, the Evers' persisted with courage and the determination to educate the public. However, On June 11, 1963, Medgar Evers was fatally shot in front of his house, and hung juries eventually freed the killer.

Myrlie began creating her own legacy in carrying on the critical work left by Medgar. She emerged in the 1980s and 90s as a political leader and an activist, founding the National Women's Political Caucus, running for Congress, and serving on the board of Public Works in Los Angeles. In 1995, she became the first woman to chair the 64-member Board of Directors of the NAACP.

During her decades of activism, Myrlie never forgot the death of her husband. In the early 1990s she convinced Mississippi prosecutors to reopen Medgar Evers' murder case and eventually led to the conviction and life imprisonment of Medgar's killer in 1994—31 years after his murder.

The life of Myrlie Evers-Williams has been nothing short of extraordinary. In her autobiography, *"Watch Me Fly: What I learned on the way to Becoming the Woman I was Meant to Be"*, Myrlie stated that "for thirty years, my focus had not wavered. Like a tree deeply rooted on the bank of a rushing river, I had not moved." It is this persistence, her unwavering will to fight for equality, her determination and dedication for social justice, that has moved me, moved this legislative body, and moved the course of this entire nation.

I salute you, Myrlie and Medgar, for all you have done, for fighting the good fight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 220.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further

proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### CARL T. CURTIS NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MIDWEST REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 703) to designate the regional headquarters building for the National Park Service under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Carl T. Curtis National Park Service Midwest Regional Headquarters Building."

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 703

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

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF CARL T. CURTIS NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MIDWEST REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

The regional headquarters building for the National Park Service under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, shall be known and designated as the "Carl T. Curtis National Park Service Midwest Regional Headquarters Building".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the regional headquarters building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the Carl T. Curtis National Park Service Midwest Regional Headquarters Building.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES) and the gentleman from California (Mr. FILLNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HAYES).

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 703 designates a building under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, as the Carl T. Curtis National Park Service Midwest Regional Headquarters Building.

Carl T. Curtis was born near Minden, Nebraska in 1905. Upon graduating from the public schools in Minden, Curtis attended Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska. After his graduation from Nebraska Wesleyan, he taught in the Minden public schools. Carl Curtis never attended law school, but he obtained his law degree by reading the law on his own and passing the bar exam in 1930. He was in private practice until 1939 when he went on to serve Nebraska and the country in Congress for the next 40 years. He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for the first of eight successive terms in 1938, and the United States Senate for four terms until 1979.

Carl Curtis is the only elected official in the history of Nebraska to win statewide office while losing both Omaha and Lincoln. In Nebraska politics, he was known as a giant killer, defeating two incumbent governors, one former governor, one governor-to-be, and two former House Members.

He was chairman of the Republican Conference in the Senate from 1975