

But critics have attacked the gesture for overlooking racist statements attributed to Gandhi, which suggest he viewed black people as lazy savages who were barely human.

Newspapers continue to publish letters from indignant readers: "Gandhi had no love for Africans. To [him], Africans were no better than the 'Untouchables' of India," said a correspondent to *The Citizen*.

Others are harsher, claiming the civil rights icon "hated" black people and ignored their suffering at the hands of colonial masters while championing the cause of Indians.

Unveiled this month, the statue stands in Gandhi Square in central Johannesburg, not far from the office from which he worked during some of his 21 years in South Africa.

The British-trained barrister was supposed to have been on a brief visit in 1893 to represent an Indian company in a legal action, but he stayed to fight racist laws after a conductor kicked him off a train for sitting in a first-class compartment reserved for whites.

Outraged, he started defending Indians charged with failing to register for passes and other political offences, founded a newspaper, and formed South Africa's first organized political resistance movement. His tactics of mobilising people for passive resistance and mass protest inspired black people to organize and some historians credit Gandhi as the progenitor of the African National Congress, which formed in 1912, two years before he returned to India to fight British colonial rule.

However, the new statue has prompted bitter recollections about some of Gandhi's writings.

Forced to share a cell with black people, he wrote: "Many of the native prisoners are only one degree removed from the animal and often created rows and fought among themselves."

He was quoted at a meeting in Bombay in 1896 saying that Europeans sought to degrade Indians to the level of the "raw kaffir, whose occupation is hunting and whose sole ambition is to collect a certain number of cattle to buy a wife with, and then pass his life in indolence and nakedness".

The Johannesburg daily *This Day* said GB Singh, the author of a critical book about Gandhi, had sifted through photos of Gandhi in South Africa and found not one black person in his vicinity.

The Indian embassy in Pretoria declined to comment, as it prepared for President Thabo Mbeki's visit to India.

Khulekani Ntshangase, a spokesman for the ANC Youth League, defended Gandhi, saying the critics missed the bigger picture of his immense contribution to the liberation struggle.

Gandhi's offending comments were made early in his life when he was influenced by Indians working on the sugar plantations and did not get on with the black people of modern-day KwaZulu-Natal province, said Mr. Ntshangase.

"Later he got more enlightened."

KEARA SAMMONS OF SMOKEY HILL HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to applaud the accomplishment of Keara Sammons of Aurora, Colorado. Keara Sammons won the individual high school women's cross country State title. Keara was

assisted by her teammates—Lisa Allen, Jeanette Ames, Stephanie Boehm, Steven Bolger, Lindsey Dezman, Nick Donkoh, Grant Duin, Eiger Erickson, Stasia Erickson, Alexander Evans, Luke Fischer, Zachary Fuller, Jennifer Gamboa, Jeanna Hanna, Michael Harris, Corey Jefferson, Michael Kasberg, Sarah Lyle, Andrew Matz, Daniel Mickey, Brittany Nelson, Miriam Olin, Hollee Pentico, Kallie Powers, Stephen Reagan, Matthew Robida, John Sawvel, Matthew Schulz, Matthew Sewick, Erica Smith, Thomas Smith, Erin Stratton, Carter Turnbull, Lauren Vail, Jacob Varey, Casey Vockrodt, Chanel Williams, Teddi Wold, Aaron Wood, Megan Woodworth and Eric Young. Keara and these student-athletes were coached by Greg Weich, Brian Manley, Jeff Bliven and Amy Fox.

Keara continued the impressive streak of Buffalo women who have won 6 of the past 7 State individual women's cross country titles. Keara won by more than 20 seconds, however, her victory was not enough for the Smoky Hill Buffalo girls to win the team title, the first time in 4 years they have not won.

The Buffalos have trained intensively while maintaining a standard of academic excellence throughout the season. It is my pleasure to honor their championship, and to wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING SUZANNE GRIFFITH

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements of Suzanne Griffith. For 21 years Suzanne has served with the Bartlett, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce. She has truly helped make our community a better place to live and work, and for that we can't thank her enough.

Suzanne began her career with the Chamber as the first full-time employee, and today she serves as its President. That sort of dedication is rare these days and we should all take a moment to mark the occasion.

During Suzanne's years at the Chamber she helped foster remarkable commercial development in Bartlett. What started as a rural community has become a thriving, economically diverse town that has given thousands of families a wonderful place to live and grow.

From 1984 to 2004, Tennessee recognized Bartlett as a "Three-Star" recipient for consistent strong economic growth, expansion, and capital improvements. Suzanne was instrumental in helping Bartlett achieve this record of achievement, and it's a credit to her work that today Bartlett has surpassed the requirements of the "Three-Star" program.

The Bartlett we know and love is in no small part due to Suzanne Griffith's work. We thank her for her vision, her hard work, and wish her well as she retires from the Bartlett Chamber of Commerce.

HONORING ANTHONY TERESI FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 13

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anthony Teresi, a resident of Chautauqua County for his service to the thirteenth legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Mr. Teresi has had the opportunity to serve not only as a strong member of the legislature but as chairman to subcommittees within.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Teresi traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 13.

Anthony is one of those people that leave a huge impact on his community. For many years his efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but in its residents. His face, voice, opinions and successes were a staple in the legislature. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work Mr. Teresi did during his tenure.

A true testimony to Mr. Teresi can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives he touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Teresi is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

IN MEMORY OF GARFIELD W. THOMPSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the Honorable Garfield W. Thompson, 89, a former state representative, a labor leader, and a friend to the Fort Worth community. Mr. Thompson passed away on Wednesday, December 7, 2005.

Garfield W. Thompson was born June 29, 1916, in Grandview, Texas. His family made Fort Worth its home when he was a young boy. He was a 1934 graduate of historic I.M. Terrell High School. At the outbreak of World War II he enlisted in the U.S. Army where he bravely served and was honorably discharged. In 1942, he married Dorothy Ruth Williams.

He worked as a waiter for Texas and Pacific Railroad until retirement after 28 years. He then worked as a custodian at the Tarrant County courthouse. There, he served as the president of the Tarrant County Courthouse AFL-CIO union, and he was later elected regional representative of the Tarrant County Central Labor Council.

Mr. Thompson was elected to the Texas House in 1984 and served District 95 for 10