

set a new world record in the men's 1,500-meter event at the International Skating Union all-around speed skating world championships in Calgary, Canada. Davis finished in 1:42.68 lowering the previous world record by 0.1 second (1:42.78).

These remarkable accomplishments are a testament to Shani Davis' courage and reflect his many years of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. I am particularly proud to know that Shani Davis' journey to sports greatness has deep roots in the 9th Congressional District of Illinois. Shani Davis lived in the Rogers Park neighborhood of Chicago and began his speed skating experience at the tender age of six under the tutelage of Sanders Hicks at the Robert Crown Ice Rink in Evanston. Shani Davis trained and enhanced his skills as a member of the Speed Skating Club at Robert Crown.

Even though he has already established an outstanding speed skating career, I believe that the future will be even richer and brighter for Shani Davis. I have witnessed his interactions with young people and I know his experiences have helped spark their imaginations and inspired them to achieve greatness in their own lives. The lessons of setting high goals, being persistent and believing in yourself are lessons that all children need to learn, lessons that are abundantly evident in the power of Shani Davis' example.

Shani Davis' world record and outstanding contributions to the legacy of the Olympics will forever serve as a source of pride and inspiration for the people of Evanston, Chicago, and all Americans. In honor of his remarkable achievements, I offer Shani Davis this United States flag as a symbol of appreciation, esteem and good wishes. This flag was flown over the United States Capital building in Washington, DC and is a fitting gift for a patriot and champion.

On behalf of the people of the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, I offer Shani Davis my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for his continued excellence.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF  
WELLINGTON TIMOTHY MARA

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of Wellington T. Mara, co-owner of the New York Football Giants. Mr. Mara will always be remembered for his accomplishments with the NFL. However, his legacy extends far beyond the gridiron. He was much more than the successful owner of a professional football team—he was a community leader, a dedicated family patriarch, a devout man of faith, and an outstanding American.

Wellington Mara was a devoted husband to his wonderful wife Anne, a loving father to his eleven children, an adoring grandfather to his 42 grandchildren, and a role model to all who knew him. When called to serve his nation, Wellington did so proudly as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy during World War II. Later in life, Mara served his community as a member of the board of the

Giants Foundation, an organization that provides important social and financial support to underprivileged youth and their families in the New York/New Jersey Metropolitan Area.

Mr. Mara's foresight helped to turn the NFL into the successful American enterprise that it is today. In the early 1960's, Wellington and his brother, Jack Mara, as co-owners of the most profitable team in the NFL, put the league ahead of their team by agreeing to share lucrative television revenue equally among all NFL teams. The current success of the NFL is a tribute to the esteemed character and selfless sacrifice of the Mara brothers. They proved to the NFL and to the nation that honorable business practices and teamwork can indeed generate great success.

Mr. Mara was well respected within the Giants organization and throughout the NFL. He was extremely loyal to players, coaches, employees, and especially the fans. He treated everyone with whom he came into contact with great respect. Under Wellington Mara's leadership, the Giants appeared in 26 postseasons, won 16 NFL divisional championships and 6 NFL championships, including the remarkable title runs in 1986 and 1990 (Super Bowls XXI and XXV) that captivated the entire New York/New Jersey area. The leadership of Wellington Mara made the Giants a wonderful organization that I am proud to have in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues will join with me in honoring the life of this exceptional man. We should all be so fortunate to leave such a tremendous legacy.

CHALLENGES FACING CARIBBEAN  
REGION AS IT FACES INTEGRATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to strongly support the words spoken by the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Honorable P.J. Patterson, in an effort to bring to light challenges facing the region and his proposals for what actions need to take place to secure a brighter future for the Caribbean nations. I would also like to enter into the RECORD the second portion of his speech delivered March 9 to the Protocolary Session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States on the theme of "Caribbean Integration In Emerging Hemispheric Relations".

DEMOCRACY, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

I am convinced that unless we focus in a meaningful way on the intrinsic link between democracy, good governance and international security on the one hand, and development on the other, our goals for peace, stability and political and economic security will always remain elusive. We must therefore address the development agenda with the same energy and commitment as we have sought to strengthen the democratic agenda, giving each equal dedication, in order that the benefits of democracy can be widely felt to improve the quality of life for our peoples.

When Heads of Government of the Hemisphere met during the 4th Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina last November, we jointly committed ourselves to the task of Creating Jobs to Fight Pov-

erty and Strengthen Democratic Governance in the Hemisphere. Our Declaration, issued at the end of the meeting, was a clarion call for sustained, long term and equitable economic growth that creates jobs, reduces poverty, eliminates hunger and raises the standard of living for the most vulnerable sectors and social groups in our diverse societies. We also stressed the need to expand trade, as a means of boosting growth and our capacity to generate more, higher quality, and better-paying jobs.

As small open economies, CARICOM countries are highly dependent on trade as the primary driver of economic and social growth, and by extension the stability and democracy of the region.

In 1994, when we launched the Summit of the Americas process, Jamaica and the rest of CARICOM readily put our efforts and scarce human, financial and technical resources into ensuring that our collective vision of prosperity in the Americas would become a reality. Four years later, we formally launched the FTAA negotiations, fully cognizant of the contribution that economic integration and trade liberalization in the Americas could make to create jobs, fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance in our Hemisphere.

It is with disappointment that on the eve of my departure from office as Prime Minister of Jamaica and Chairman of the Prime Ministerial Sub-Committee on External Negotiations of CARICOM, the FTAA is faltering on the rock of political will.

CARICOM is fully committed to the goal and objectives of the Summit of the Americas generally. If the FTAA has no future, we must be realistic and begin to explore new alternatives. Given the slow progress to date in the Doha Development Round of multilateral negotiations, we need to find a hemispheric impetus for advancing discussions on key issues in the WTO.

For example, the Work Programme for Small Economies in the DDA as well as the recent Aid For Trade initiative could build on the initiatives and acceptance by Hemispheric Heads at our Fourth Summit, that smaller economies should be recognised as a special category of countries. Special and differential treatment in favour of smaller economies have to be an accepted fundamental principle of whatever negotiations we pursue.

Our collective vision of growth, economic prosperity and stability for the Hemisphere must not be confined to the narrow territorial boundaries of the hemisphere. Let us broaden the boundaries of our collaboration beyond the OAS and the United Nations. It is high time for the Caribbean and Latin American countries to pool our collective bargaining resources in the WTO, where we also have common goals and concerns.

Every effort must be made to bring Haiti into full participating in the various trade negotiations in the hemisphere and the WTO. In this case, there can be no question about the need for special and differential treatment and technical assistance.

Let me place on record the appreciation of CARICOM for the contribution of OAS and CIDA to technical assistance and capacity building. As we contemplate the multiple trade agendas facing our region, there will be need for sustained assistance to ensure our adjustment and implementation of these new obligations.

How can we then ensure that actions taken at the hemispheric level dovetail automatically into the regional development agenda, the two processes working simultaneously towards a united objective? I will return to my own thoughts on this later in my presentation.