In the book of Matthew, chapter 16, verse 18, the Lord said to his disciple, Simon, 

"I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not overcome it." Just as Simon was the rock upon which the Christian faith grew and flourished, so was Monsignor Hladky the ever-present and ever-faithful rock upon which our homes, communities, and families grew and also flourished throughout the years. Citizens of all faiths pray for Monsignor Hladky and his parish, because this faithful and dutiful servant of God was truly a blessing and we are grateful to have had him touch our valley so.

COMMEMORATING TONY CRAVER FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AS MENDOCINO COUNTY SHERIFF

HON. MIKE THOMPSON OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tony Craver on the occasion of his retirement as Sheriff and for his 34 years of outstanding service to the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department.

Tony Craver's accomplishments range from developing programs for juvenile exchange and related disease prevention to improving criminal justice policies in conjunction with local tribes, the Attorney General's Office of Native American Affairs and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Sheriff Craver served on the California State Sheriff's Association's committee on Native American affairs. He worked closely with local tribal leaders to help establish tribal police programs and improve tribal criminal justice programs.

Working with patients, care givers, the medical community, and other local authorities, Sheriff Craver established mutually agreeable guidelines and created a departmental statement of policy six years before the state legislature passed a bill on medical marijuana. He developed the first practical and reasonable method of accommodating medical marijuana consumers and providers with minimal police intervention by establishing a photo ID card system with verification capabilities in the State of California.

Sheriff Craver served on the Evaluation and Advisory panel of the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project established by the State of California Department of Health Services Office on AIDS.

In 2005, the California Rifle and Pistol Association named Sheriff Craver as Outstanding Peace Officer of the Year.

In addition to his official duties, Tony Craver was a director of the Fort Bragg Kiwanis Club, and a member of the Mendocino Masonic Lodge, the Pomo Shrine Club, Fort Bragg Shrine Club, Ukiah Gun Club, and the Redwood Practical Shooters.

Born in Sonoma County, Sheriff Craver served until his honorable discharge in both the United States Marine Corps and in the U.S. Army Reserve. He has an Associate of Arts degree in Administration of Justice from Mendocino Community College and a Lifetime Vocational Technical Assistant designation.

Beloved and respected by the community and his fellow deputies, Sheriff Craver looks forward to retirement and spending more time with his wife Joanne, his four children and four grandchildren. He plans to enjoy the great outdoors and get back into fishing and competitive shooting.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, Tony Craver earned the admiration and respect of his peers and left a positive legacy from his years in the Mendocino County Sheriff's Department. For these reasons, it is appropriate that we honor his 34 years of commitment and service to law enforcement and public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LAS VEGAS WINGS CHAPTER OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY

HON. JON C. PORTER OF NEVADA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of a special group of American heroes, those that have received the Distinguished Flying Cross. I honor them today for their service and dedication to our great Nation.

The Distinguished Flying Cross was authorized by an Act of Congress on July 2, 1926 and is awarded to any officer or enlisted member of the Armed Forces who has distinguished themselves during combat in support of operations by “heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight.”

Since its creation the Distinguished Flying Cross has been awarded to some of America's greatest aviators and serves as a reminder of their heroic actions. This prestigious medal was first awarded to Charles A. Lindbergh, of the U.S. Army Corps Reserve, for his solo flight of 3,600 miles across the Atlantic in 1927. The first Distinguished Flying Cross to be awarded to a Naval Aviator was awarded to Richard E. Byrd, of the U.S. Navy
A TRIBUTE TO DR. WALTER RODNEY—REMEMBERING A TRUE CARIBBEAN INTELLECTUAL

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the legacy and memory of Dr. Walter Rodney, an eloquent teacher, writer, scholar and political activist who left this world much too soon to reach the age of 38 years and to enter into the RECORD an essay written in the New York CaribNews by Michael D. Roberts entitled “Celebrating the 64th Birthday of Dr. Walter Rodney—Remembering A True Caribbean Intellectual”.

Dr. Walter Rodney was born in Guyana on March 23, 1942, and at an early age, excelled academically. After graduating from the University of the West Indies, he enrolled at the London University and at the age of 24, was awarded a Ph.D.

Walter Rodney an avid political activist was involved in the Guyanese labor movement and headed up the Working People’s Alliance. His political views were strongly influenced by the Black Power and Black Consciousness Movements in the U.S. and Caribbean, respectively. Of particular scholarly interest to Rodney was the economic history of Guyana, and the legacy of slavery and colonialism in Africa. He intrigued extensive research into the history of economic exploitation in Africa. He traveled and studied with teaching assignments in Tanzania and Guinea, Africans in Guyana trace their roots to Guinea.

The results of his travels and research were three remarkable books: *A History of the Upper Guinea Coast, 1545–1800*, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*, and *Groundings with My Brothers*. How Europe Underdeveloped Africa offered a Marxist analysis of the impact of colonialism and capitalism in underdeveloping Africa. Groundings then followed, the African world. Though he traveled extensively throughout the world, Dr. Rodney’s base of operations from 1974 until his death was in Guyana. He continued to lecture and organize the people of his homeland. He joined the Working People’s Alliance, WPC, of Guyana which later became an independent Marxist political party in 1979.

There is so much more to say about the life and intellectual gifts of Walter Rodney. He was a profound intellectual and worldly scholar who had so much left to share with the world when he was silenced by death. Sadly, Walter Rodney was killed by a car bomb in Guyana on June 13, 1980. His murder remains unsolved.

When I met Walter Rodney at my alma mater, the University of the West Indies, he enrolled at the University of London and attended the University of Guyana. Of course, the Forbes Bishop used to call “the salt of the earth.”

That was Walter he’d take a complex topic as economics and tailor it to suit the washers and presented it in words that they understood. He interjected humor and practical day-to-day experiences that they related to in their collective memory for educating “his people” as he called them.

In Guyana there has been the problem that historically the working class has always been in a majority and that may be the manipulation of the planter class. The Indians were introduced into the society specifically to compete and break the development of the Black working class movement. It was the White people—given them the slip. The Governments in Guyana and the other Caribbean countries were in opposition to conditions after the end of slavery.

So it is not simply as though Africans and Indians co-existed without any relation one to the other. Economic competition between Africans and Indians was deliberately created within the construct of the old capitalist order.

In 1974 Walter Rodney decided to return to Guyana and take up an appointment at the University of Guyana. He had never been a student of Linden Forbes Burnham government promptly scuttled his appointment as Professor of History. That same year, he joined the Working People’s Alliance that became a political party in July of 1979—five months after the Grenada Revolution of March 13, 1979. That same month he was assassinated, along with the washing—paid for their activities. It was a heavy price paid for the people, for allegedly burning down Government offices. It would be this incident that would propel him to the top of Guyanese politics and it is believed that Walter Rodney’s life was on the line as threats, harassment and intimidation continued from the Burnham regime that became more and more intense after his death.

One day we were driving on the Eastern coast of Grenada hearing for the country’s second largest town, Grenville. We stopped at a village named Birchgrove for a while and I left to see a friend at the Police station. Walter had two bodyguards with him and a few minutes later they came to me worried sick that he was nowhere to be found and maybe he’ve given them the slip.

I then led a search for Walter in the shops and parlors in the village since Walter was fond of going to where ordinary people congregated to speak to them about situations so he could learn more about them. By then I was used to his ways. But search as we may we could not find him. Then I heard loud la laughing. I walked over to see a Birchgrove River and decided to check it out.

There sitting comfortably on a river stone surrounded by about 20 women, some bare-chested, some in the river washing, was Walter Rodney. When we arrived on the scene he flashed his usual sly grin and continued speaking with the women—women of farmers and children of working people.

We spent more than an hour listening to Walter exchange conversation with whom he considered friends. He would ask the questions and the white people would answer and Walter would come back with the answers.

One incident in Grenada that would be unforgettable at me was when I was used to his ways. But search as we may we could not find him. Then I heard loud laughter. I walked over to see a Birchgrove River and decided to check it out.

There sitting comfortably on a river stone surrounded by about 20 women, some bare-chested, some in the river washing, was Walter Rodney. When we arrived on the scene he flashed his usual sly grin and continued speaking with the women—women of farmers and children of working people.

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