

Center on July 25, 2006 of kidney failure following a short illness. Mr. Robinson's belief in the potential of Africa motivated others to look beyond themselves to see how their actions could be used to benefit others.

Born in North Carolina, Robinson earned a BA from Ohio State and did graduate studies at the State University of New York, the American University and Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Mr. Robinson believed that if you can conceive it, then you can achieve it, and he proved that with all of his many accomplishments. At the tender age of 23, Mr. Robinson was named the associate Director for India for the Peace Corps, where he later became the director of minority recruitment. Mr. Robinson left America at a time when people were not learning from one another to serve in a country that benefited from his help as a black man. This experience shaped how he envisioned the rest of the world, laying the groundwork for a long and successful career in the public sector.

Following his work in the Peace Corps, Mr. Robinson served two terms as a deputy assistant secretary of State for Africa. From 1983–1984 during the Reagan administration, Robinson oversaw economic and commercial policy at the State Department. When he returned to the African Bureau in 1990, he coordinated U.S. policy toward west and central Africa and directed U.S. diplomatic efforts to end Liberia's civil war, until President Bush left office in 1994. During that time, for six years between his State Department postings, Robinson served as president of the U.S. African Development Foundation which was established by Congress to provide small-scale assistance to community based organizations in Africa.

Also in 2001, Robinson helped in the creation of the Africa society to carry on public awareness and support for Africa as a direct outgrowth of the historic National Summit on Africa. This National Summit was initiated with funding from the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York to build support for Africa in the United States. He was named President of the organization in 1999.

The Africa Society is helping educate America about Africa and has assisted in the expansion of a broad base of support for Africa through the initiatives taken on by Mr. Robinson. Bernadette Paolo, vice president and co-founder of the Africa Society said that Mr. Robinson "gave everything he had to the Africa society, and to the continent of Africa for over 30 years. He contributed brilliance, passion, and visionary leadership. He was our founder, our inspiration and our star. His memory will serve to move us forward on our mission to educate all Americans about Africa".

Africa for a long time and perhaps still is considered a poor and aids stricken "country" and not a rich and diverse continent. The African Society with Mr. Robinson's leadership has attacked this misconception. We all mourn the loss of such a true pioneer.

I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the press release written about his life published by the Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa on July 25, 2006. As more and more American's perceptions and policy decisions change towards Africa, we must forever reflect on the individuals who gave their life so that we can begin the process of understanding the lives of others. One will not be able to

speaking about the progress between the USA and Africa without bringing up his name, for he has without a doubt made great contributions to achieving understanding between us.

[From the Africa Society of the National Summit on Africa]

AFRICA SOCIETY STAFF—LEONARD H. ROBINSON, JR.

Leonard Robinson has more than 30 years working and living experience in international affairs, with Africa and Asia as regions of specialization. He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, from 1983–85 where he was responsible for economic and commercial policy. And, as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State from 1990–1993, he was responsible for U.S. policy toward Central and West Africa. His other portfolios for Africa included Narcotics, Terrorism, Democracy and the Peace Corps. He also directed U.S. diplomatic initiatives to help in the resolution of the Liberia civil war.

Robinson spent six years as President of the U.S. African Development Foundation, established by Congress in 1981 to provide official assistance to community-based organizations and grassroots enterprises throughout Africa. During his tenure, annual Congressional appropriations increased from an initial \$1m to \$17m. He has also worked with the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Battelle Memorial Institute, and the Peace Corps where he served as a volunteer, Associate Director for India and as Director of Minority Recruitment for the United States.

A native of North Carolina, Robinson received a BA from Ohio State University; and attended graduate school at the State University of New York, Binghamton, and post graduate school at the American University, Washington, DC, and Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is the recipient of two honorary doctoral degrees.

He is professor of African Studies at the University of Massachusetts—Boston, and Senior Fellow at the Center for Development and Democracy at the John W. McCormack Institute, the University's think tank. He founded LHR International Group, Inc. in 1997, a political policy consulting firm specializing in the analysis of U.S. foreign policy for the heads of state and foreign ministers of African and Asian nations.

Mr. Robinson and colleagues founded The Africa Society in 2001 as a direct outgrowth of the historic National Summit on Africa. The mission of the Africa Society is to educate and inform all Americans about the great and diverse continent of Africa. With a grant supported by the Ford Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the National Summit on Africa was established in 1997 to educate all Americans about Africa, to build a broad constituency of support for Africa in the United States, and to formulate a National Policy Plan of Action on U.S.-Africa Relations in the Twenty-First Century—the Summit held a historic conference on Africa in Washington, D.C., February 16–20, 2000. Over 8,000 Americans from every state, as well as continental Africans, attended. Robinson will continue to serve as President and CEO of the newly established Africa Society of The National Summit on Africa.

Robinson is the author of several articles and publications, and serves on a number of boards and advisory councils including the National Peace Corps Association, and Discovery Channel's Global Education Fund. In 2005 Mayor Anthony Williams appointed and swore in Robinson to the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia. A frequent speaker, he has made presen-

tations at World Affairs Councils throughout the U.S., the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at UNC-Chapel Hill, UMass-Boston, Eastern Connecticut University, UCLA, The Monterey Language Institute and the Miller Center at the University of Virginia.

The University of Virginia appointed Robinson as its first Diplomat Scholar in Residence in August 2004. He has been listed in Who's Who in America since 1985.

## ASEAN MUST BE USED TO MAKE HUN SEN LISTEN

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and other representatives of the United States are attending the annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Kuala Lumpur.

As a Representative from a State with a large and vibrant Cambodian community, I have been very closely following issues on the ground in Cambodia.

For some time, I have been deeply concerned about Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's policy of undermining democratic principles and justice.

Having met with leaders like Sam Rainsy, Mu Sochua and Kem Sokha, I have heard their chilling reports of routine violations of the Cambodian constitution's guarantees of freedom of expression and association. I have been outraged by Hun Sen's arbitrary arrests and violations of fundamental human dignity and respect.

I urge the Secretary of State to use the ASEAN forum to rally the world community to remind the Hun Sen regime of its obligations to its people.

The government must immediately end its systematic campaign to undermine democracy, the rule of law, and human rights in Cambodia. The Secretary should remind the regime that the American people, the world community, and the donor community that has provided \$2 billion in aid to Cambodia is watching.

## POVERTY IN AMERICA ONE YEAR FOLLOWING HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, before Congress recesses for the month of August, I would like to take a moment of time to call attention to an issue of great importance. As a nation, we are approaching the year anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, two of the most powerful and destructive natural disasters the United States has seen.

Chaos ensued in the aftermath of the hurricanes; untimely responses to the disaster in addition to inadequate resources turned the situation from a natural into a man-made disaster. As people were fleeing their homes and

gathering in camps like refugees without water, food, or adequate shelter—media coverage began to expose the dirty secret of America's working poor. Out of the 5.8 million people from the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama who were directly affected by this devastation, more than one million—nearly one-fifth of those affected—lived in poverty. These atrocities shined the light on poverty in America. People could not ignore it. Indeed, the events made Americans question, "how is it that so many people, most of them children, are living below the poverty line in the wealthiest country in the world?"

Upon visiting New Orleans after the Hurricanes, President Bush declared that the nation had a solemn duty to help the poor. But the issue of America's poor was brief in the presidential limelight. Despite the clarity of the problem of poverty that the disasters brought, poverty fails to be a priority for this administration. The war in Iraq is the top priority for this administration, draining the country's resources and taking precedent over the pressing domestic issue of abject poverty in America. Tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, not healthcare and living wages for those who are struggling to make it. Significant cuts to our social safety nets of Medicare and Medicaid. Failure to raise the minimum wage. Time after time, this Administration has promoted legislation that disenfranchises the working poor. The administration had an opportunity to address poverty, and it has shown a complete lack of leadership to do so. Poverty is not a priority for this administration.

As Members of Congress, we share the responsibility with the executive branch of government to put poverty back on the agenda, to create and fund programs that can help America's forgotten poor. I hope that assisting the poor in fundamental ways will top our legislative agenda when we return. Doing so would be the best tribute to the victims of the recent hurricane disasters to mark the year anniversary of this sad moment in our history.

#### RECOGNIZING NELL GRISSOM

### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I want to share with this Congress the life and work of Nell Grissom at Wesley House in Meridian, Mississippi. She represents the best of Mississippi and demonstrates again and again, the power of faith, hope, and love.

Nell was stricken with polio at the age of twelve and paralyzed from the neck down. Doctors said she would never walk or have children. For years she lived in a full-length steel brace from chin to hip. But she finished high school; she married, and has three children and two grandchildren. Faith, determination, and hard work gave her inner strength to match the steel of those braces. Strength to build, guide, and direct a mission that feeds, clothes, educates, counsels, reforms, and heals: touching over 33,000 people every year.

In the mid-1960's, Wesley House Community Center in Meridian was about to close. Founded in 1904 by a group of churchwomen to bring hope into the lives of women and chil-

dren living in poverty around a cotton mill, for sixty years, they held Bible classes and sewing lessons and distributed food and shoes and Christmas presents to the poor people in that neighborhood. Methodists operated Wesley House in a small frame cottage and staffed it with a missionary deaconess.

By 1967, the church could no longer provide a deaconess and Nell Grissom, who was volunteer leader of the Youth Fellowship at Central Methodist Church, was asked to help keep the doors open until a qualified mission worker could be found. Now forty years later it is obvious to all that Nell Grissom was the mission worker they needed.

Wesley House currently serves as the central hub for the regions Toys-for-Tots drive at Christmas. Nell Grissom has also turned Wesley House into a crisis center for local, regional, and state disasters. This past year Wesley House was instrumental in distributing aid to Hurricane Katrina victims.

Years of service to thousands of people trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty, neglect, abuse, and crime, led Nell to open East Central Mississippi's first Sexual Assault Crisis Center in 1990. Almost overwhelmed by the response of hundreds of victims of sexual assault and abuse, Nell worked tirelessly. Counselors were employed and a volunteer crisis line response team was set up to counsel with victims at hospital emergency rooms and law enforcement facilities on a twenty-four hour basis. Nell's efforts have expanded the Sexual Assault Crisis Center and Children's Advocacy Center at Wesley House to include a traveling counselor serving victims in five counties and abuse prevention programs in the public schools. Moving beyond direct services to victims of sexual assault and abuse, Nell Grissom expanded the Wesley House victims rights programs to include services to families of victims of homicide and other crimes.

For over forty years now, Nell Grissom has led countless volunteers to build an agency that gives victims productive futures. Helping victims of poverty and neglect before they become victims of crime is a major focus of Nell Grissom's life. Every day she and her co-workers are salvaging lives from the mean streets, instilling the virtues of work, faith, and morality in those most vulnerable of our citizens. Nell retires in August and ends this chapter in Wesley House's history, but she does so with sadness and with joy. Sadness that she will not be guiding the great services that Wesley House provides, and joy because she knows that God has used her to touch the lives of countless people.

Mr. Speaker, Nell Grissom could have rested on her laurels and retired years ago, yet she has kept working for over forty years as she still works late into the evening at Wesley House helping just one more victim with one more problem. The impact of Nell Grissom's service is reflected in the countless people from all walks of life who can testify about the healing Nell Grissom has brought to their lives and their families. She has made her community, her state, and her country a better place through her efforts and I am proud to call her a daughter of Mississippi.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BOROUGH OF KENHORST

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Borough of Kenhorst in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

The residents of Cumru Township, upset with what they described as an exorbitant streetlight tax, a lack of fire and police protection, and a lack of street improvement, decided to secede from the Township to create their own municipality, thereby resulting in the establishment of the Borough of Kenhorst nearly 75 years ago.

Its name is of most interesting origins. Along New Holland Road to the south of the proposed borough was a large estate owned by the Horst family. Along Lancaster Avenue was a large farm operated by the Kendall family, also known as Kendall Park. Consequently, the founders decided to combine both names and Kenhorst Borough was thereby incorporated on August 25, 1931.

The Borough remains largely residential, but has recently seen expansion along the two main thoroughways—New Holland Road and Lancaster Avenue—because of the community's outstanding beauty and quality of life. Today, the Borough is considered one of the premier communities in Berks County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Borough of Kenhorst on its 75th anniversary and recognizing the service of a multitude of citizens who worked tirelessly to establish, promote, and grow the Borough to become the exemplary community it is today.

IN TRIBUTE TO CORA WALKER:  
LAWYER WHO BROKE RACIAL  
GROUND

### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 28, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cora Walker, a just woman whose sincere determination and resolve not only helped change the way law became practiced in New York but also helped diversify its practitioners. Ms. Cora Walker who is recognized as being one of the first black women to practice law in the state of New York, succumbed to cancer at her Manhattan home on July 20, 2006. As a living example of an individual who defied the odds, Ms. Walker walked the path less traveled, opening it up for many others to follow.

Born in Charlotte in 1922, to William and Benetta Jones Walker, Ms. Walker was one of 9 children. Ms. Walker's family, at that time like most Southern families, wanted a life beyond the laws of segregation and Jim Crow. Their search for the American dream carried them to the Bronx. The new life in New York, however, brought unexpected changes, the biggest one being the sudden divorce of her parents. The separation of her parents, created a financial burden for the entire family