

Chávez has been brandishing anti-Americanism ever since he became president in 1998. He intensified his denunciation of the Bush administration after a failed coup in 2002, which he believed Washington had fomented. Venezuela, with its vast oil reserves, has benefited greatly from the surge in oil prices since 2001. Chávez is criticizing the leading force behind a world economic system that has enriched his country and enhanced his power.

Were Chávez really concerned with the oppressed of the world, he would not consort with Kim Jong Il and Bashir Assad, who have continued their fathers' repressive regimes in North Korea and Syria. Nor would he have created an informal alliance with antidemocratic Iran, or extended a lifeline to Fidel Castro in Cuba, or visited Iraq in 2000 to support Saddam Hussein. If the United States opposes a dictator, Chávez backs him.

This monotone foreign policy, combined with his outburst this week, undercuts Venezuela's campaign for the Latin American seat on the U.N. Security Council, which will be decided by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly on Oct. 16. The Security Council has important votes coming up in the next year, on sanctions against Iran and action to stop genocide in Darfur, among others. Venezuela, under the leadership of Chávez, would not make a positive contribution.

Deprived of an international forum, Chávez would have more time to spend on his reelection campaign. It ought to be as freely contested as the 2004 race between Bush and John F. Kerry. And if Chávez wins on Dec. 3, he ought to devote his six-year term to solving the great recurring problem of Venezuela: How a country endowed with such natural wealth can leave almost half its people in utter poverty. Chávez would earn more enduring fame by leading Venezuela out of this resource trap.

HONORING MARY ELIZA MAHONEY,  
AMERICA'S FIRST PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED  
AFRICAN-AMERICAN NURSE

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 19, 2006*

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring Mary Eliza Mahoney who was the first African-American registered nurse in the United States. She was a visionary, a leader, and because of her dedication and untiring will to encourage future generations, would become an inspiration to thousands of men and women of color who work diligently every day in the field of nursing.

Mary Mahoney's interest in the nursing profession began when she was just a young girl. She worked for fifteen years at the New England Hospital for Women and Children (now Dimock Community Health Center) in Roxbury, Massachusetts as a nurse's assistant, but this would not be her only occupation. She also worked as a cook, a janitor, and a washerwoman. In 1878, at the age of 33, she was admitted as a student into the hospital's nursing program established by Dr. Marie Zakrzewska. Sixteen months later, she was one of four who completed the course.

After graduation she worked primarily as a private duty nurse for the next 30 years all

over the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. At the culmination of her nursing career, she was the director of an orphanage in Long Island, New York, a position she held for 10 years.

In 1896, Mahoney became one of the first African-American members of the predominantly white American Nurses Association (ANA). However, recognizing the need for nurses to work together to improve the status of African Americans in the profession, she helped to establish the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN). This was important in many ways. It was because of her inspiring efforts and unselfish devotion to caring for others that helped make it possible for nurses to be received at the White House by President Warren G. Harding. Mahoney also gave the welcoming address at the first convention of the NACGN and served as the association's national chaplain.

Mahoney's life of tending to the needs of the sick ended with her death on January 4, 1926. She was indeed an icon in the nursing profession, bringing to light the hard work, sacrifice, and commitment that nurses put forth everyday.

My sister Frances was a nurse for many years before retiring, and I saw the hard work, the sacrifice, and long hours of commitment that she gave to this notable profession. She made me appreciate even more what nurses do and how they are a vital and valued part of the healthcare industry.

Mary Mahoney advanced the nursing profession and was not afraid to confront issues that affect nurses. She was a woman of superlatively high standards, complete integrity, and boundless enthusiasm for whatever task she took in hand. It was because of the life she lived and her outstanding contributions to nursing, that The Mary Mahoney Medal was established in her honor posthumously by the NACGN in 1936. In 1976, she would be further remembered by being inducted into the Nursing Hall of Fame.

Madam Speaker, let us honor this woman of courage and faith by passing this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO BERTHA GARDNER  
BYNUM

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2006*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an ordinary woman, who has led an extraordinary life. Mrs. Bertha Gardner Bynum turned 107 years old on September 15th, and I ask you to join me in celebrating her long and wonderful life.

Bertha Gardner was born on September 15, 1899 in the Privateer area of Clarendon County, South Carolina. She attended St. James and Bracey Schools. However, the State of South Carolina didn't make the educating of young African American children a priority in the early 20th century. Consequently, when they had exhausted what little formal education that was available to them, Bertha and her siblings had to find work as sharecroppers on local farms to help out the family.

Her family eventually moved to nearby Sumter to find a better life, but Bertha dreamed of much more. Bertha left South Carolina and

moved to New York, where she did domestic work. She was later blessed with her only child, Elizabeth Gardner Nelson.

Bertha returned to Sumter and on January 20, 1943 she married Simon Bynum. After Simon's death, Bertha led the life of a very independent woman. She lived alone and traveled almost everywhere she went on foot. She became a member of Jehovah Baptist Church, and later transferred to Salem Baptist. There she served as a member of the Usher Board, and is presently recognized as the Mother of Salem Baptist Church. However, declining health has prevented her from attending in recent years.

Blessed with a long life, Mrs. Bynum has struggled through adversity and witnessed extraordinary changes in the world around her. Today she continues to read her bible and shares advice with all that will listen. She is the last survivor of her 13 siblings and lives with her daughter and son-in-law where she is surrounded by the love of five generations of her extended family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in sending best wishes and Godspeed to the matriarch of the Gardner family. She has shown a true devotion to her faith and her family, and is a living legacy. She deserves our deepest respect and admiration.

HONORING THE SHENENDEHOWA  
HIGH SCHOOL COLOR GUARD

**HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 25, 2006*

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the young women of the Shenendehowa High School's Color Guard for their second place finish at the Scholastic Open Class Winter Guard 2006 World Championship in Dayton, Ohio. This accomplishment reflects the immeasurable amount of time and effort that each member of the team made in order to succeed. Their triumphant endeavor is a tribute to the dedication of the team, their training staff, and their families.

Competitive Color Guards provide an educational experience through a combination of sport and performing arts. The experience promotes perseverance and teamwork, which will be beneficial to the performers throughout their lives. The talented young women comprising this accomplished team are: Amelia Allen; Lauren Anderson; Larissa Krushelnytsky; Beth Murphy; Leah Homing; Taylor Nelson; Amanda Lesniewski; Ali Kawola; Sarah Ozols; Carolyn Drislane; Lauren Drislane; Faith Beidl; Kim Cologgi; Kaitlin Lacey; Casey Breen; Jessica Young; Samantha Lovering.

The success of this devoted team is also due to the hard work and commitment of their Director, Scott Snell and Show Designer, Jeff Namian as well as the rest of the staff, including: Jennifer Lawrence; Christine Mertes; Gretchen Shyne; Bill Ryan; Patrick Leombrone; Nick Charles; Sonya Balaban.

It is my privilege to recognize the Shenendehowa Color Guard for their achievement. Their ability to come together as a group of individuals and finish at the top of a world-class event is inspiring. On behalf of the