

impact of this order and the ensuing exclusion, relocation, and internment on American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry.

The CWRIC found that EO 9066 and the decisions that followed were not justified by military necessity, but shaped by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. As a member of the commission, Father Drinan was among the most outspoken about the need to remedy the injustices done to these loyal Americans and permanent residents. Based on the CWRIC's findings and recommendations, Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided a national apology and redress to all surviving individuals who were excluded from their place of residence due to EO 9066.

The CWRIC and its findings are cited as historic and remarkable due to their impeccable credentials, solid research, and far-reaching influence. As such, we cannot understate the role of Father Robert Drinan in the proceedings and findings of this commission. He spoke for redress to former internees in his Congressional testimony on behalf of the commission. His testimony was truly instrumental in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act and sent a message to the Nation and the world that the U.S. Government is able to admit its mistakes and take responsibility in making reparations. In a speech before Congress in 1987, Father Drinan profoundly stated, "No U.S. Government may take away the liberty of its citizens, even in wartime, unless there is some clear and provable reason. Lacking any such reason, the deprivation of liberty of any U.S. citizen is a clear violation of the Constitution, which states in the 14th Amendment that no person may be deprived of 'life, liberty, or property without due process of law.'"

Father Drinan maintained his commitment to the causes of human rights, education, and promoting awareness of the triumphs and follies of U.S. history throughout his life and well after his tenure on the CWRIC. On the matter of Japanese American Internment, Father Drinan was among the founding board members of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund which was created by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 to fund educational and humanitarian purposes related to the wartime internment of Japanese Americans. As part of this board, Father Drinan ensured that we as a Nation never forget the mistakes in our history and are reminded to uphold the virtues of equality and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, Father Robert Drinan has certainly impacted this Nation in innumerable ways, but I have been personally touched by Father Drinan's work and advocacy on behalf of the Japanese American community towards redress. Our Nation owes Father Drinan much honor, respect, and gratitude for his work to address the wrongs done to Japanese Americans during World War II and his tireless effort to ensure this Nation lives up to its own standards. He will be sorely missed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at a memorial service in my district,

I was unable to cast the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 74: "yea".

Rollcall No. 75: "yea".

#### HONORING TEMPLE COLLEGE

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the high level of success achieved by Temple College located in Temple, Texas. The Texas Bioscience Institute established by Temple College recently garnered the highest award offered by the Community College Futures Assembly, the distinguished Bellwether Award. The Bellwether Award is given to the highest achieving institute in workforce development. This award is given to only one community college each year, effectively recognizing the Texas Bioscience Institute as the finest workforce development institute at any community college. One chancellor from a California community college was so impressed with TBI he plans to emulate the institute at his school.

This award not only recognizes TBI's success; it is an indicator of the bright future of Temple College and the Texas Bioscience Institute. With this award comes the opportunity to apply for grants from the state and federal governments, ensuring the means for further successes from this institute. Not satisfied to rest on their laurels, the institute plans to increase the number of students by 50 percent to 150 and maintain the high level of teaching achievement they are known for. I am very proud of their work and am honored to represent such a fine academic institution as Temple College and their award-winning Texas Bioscience Institute.

#### TRIBUTE TO JAMES C. MILES

### HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to remember the life of a proud Berks County resident, James C. Miles. James was born August 26, 1918, to Alfred and Grace Miles, and passed away on February 5, 2007, at the age of 88.

Born and raised in Reading, Pennsylvania, Mr. Miles graduated from Reading High School in 1936 and later joined the U.S. Army during World War II. Utilizing his experience with the famous Reading Railroad industry, Mr. Miles served in Northern Africa and Europe helping to repair the rail network in support of the advance towards Germany.

Mr. Miles was a member of the Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn, Pennsylvania. In addition, Mr. Miles was a former President of the Wernersville VFW.

Mr. Miles was preceded in death by his wife of over 40 years, the former Marjorie Elizabeth High, whom he wed November 27, 1941, and who passed away on May 22, 1986. Surviving him are his two children, Larry E. (Catherine)

Miles of Wyomissing, Deborah (Michael) Shimko of Nazareth; five grandchildren, Kelly (Tony) Curtis of Glen Allen, VA, Jeffrey (Meredith) Miles currently serving at our Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico, Jennifer Miles of Chicago, IL, Michael and Mark Shimko of Nazareth; and three great-granddaughters, Caroline, Madelyn and Claire Curtis of Glen Allen, VA.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of James C. Miles. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and achievements here today.

#### NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED A DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, America needs a Department of Peace in order to have a peace-making capacity to match its war-making capacity. America should rely on preventive diplomacy, not on preventive war. We should work within the framework of international law, not defy it.

My first campaign for Congress, following the teaching of Dr. King, was based on "jobs, peace and justice." That remains my priority agenda. So I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 808, Representative KUCINICH's bill to establish a Department of Peace and Non-Violence. At a time when the world is awash in war, he and Marianne Williamson, founder of the Peace Alliance, offer this modern vision of healing and preventing violence.

It could not be more timely. According to all reports, the Bush administration is debating whether to attack Iran or to find peaceful ways to deal with its nuclear program and its intervention in Iraq. The prospect of President Bush starting a "pre-emptive war" with Iran, on top of the tragedy in Iraq, is frightening. If that is not a compelling argument for creating a Peace Department, then I do not know what is.

We attacked Iraq because President Bush would not pursue peace and let U.N. inspectors complete their work. Instead, he distorted intelligence and failed to foresee the terrible consequences of that war. We must not repeat those mistakes in Iran, or anywhere else.

Last night, I spoke to an overflowing crowd that supports this measure and I told them what I tell my colleagues now. The best way to stop the war in Iraq is for the Congress to end our fighting there as soon as possible, and the best way to prevent wars with Iran and other adversarial nations is to establish a Department of Peace. We need a Cabinet Secretary focused like a laser on how to keep peace with Iran and constantly pressing the President to choose that strategy.

President Bush has already spent some \$2 trillion on the war in Iraq. Just think what we could have done with \$2 trillion spent on health care and education. That is another strong reason for the Department of Peace. A small fraction of that amount could also have funded a robust, proactive Department of Peace to analyze looming conflicts and to advise the President on how to diffuse them without war.

The most crucial point is what happens when the President and his top advisors confer in the Oval Office about an international crisis. We need a Cabinet member at that table who will forcefully and persistently advocate the peaceful options. Too often, the phrase "search for peace" is simply a political sound bite. President Bush assured us he was searching for peace, and that attacking Iraq was his "last resort," while he secretly plotted war. We need to ensure that war really is America's last resort.

Some of my colleagues may find this proposal interesting but feel they must deal with "more pressing matters." What is more pressing than preventing the violent deaths of our GI's and of our fellow human beings everywhere?

Some colleagues may think a Department of Peace is being offered as a substitute for our Armed Forces. That is not true. We realize that sometimes force proves necessary to protect our truly vital interests. A Peace Department would complement the Pentagon, not replace it, but a Peace Department would make war as rare as possible.

I remind those cynical about the absolute priority of pursuing machinery for peace that Gandhi, Dr. King and Nelson Mandela, who each pioneered paths of peace and non-violence, are now hailed worldwide as heroes of humanity.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL COMMUNITIES INVESTMENT ACT, H.R. 833

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**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues of legislation I have introduced today to strengthen economies in rural America.

The legislation that I have proposed, The Rural Communities Investment Act, H.R. 833, extends tax initiatives to make the interest income on farm real estate and certain rural housing loans exempt from federal taxation.

Rural communities are facing sharp declines in population and business development due to urban migration and consolidation trends in U.S. agriculture. My bill would provide tax incentives to facilitate low cost financing options for farm and rural housing loans. More financing options will encourage greater competition among lenders and better rates for borrowers.

The Rural Communities Investment Act, first introduced as H.R. 4854 in the 109th Congress, has received the support of the Kentucky Bankers Association, a trade group representing the interests of thousands of bank employees across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

I believe the incentives offered in The Rural Communities Investment Act will provide a solid foundation for new investment and economic stability in small town America, making rural communities affordable and attractive places to live and do business.

THE PASSING OF CHARLOTTE THOMPSON REID

**HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Mr. HASTERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a former member of this House and one of my predecessors, Charlotte Thompson Reid, who passed away on January 25, 2007. For those of us from the Fox Valley who have since gone on to a life of public service, Charlotte Thompson Reid is an inspiration to us all and an example of how to serve the people you have been trusted to represent with the utmost integrity.

Known as the "Grand Lady of Aurora, Illinois," and "Charley" to her friends, Charlotte accomplished great things for her hometown of Aurora and the surrounding area. Her sparkling personality and just plain Midwest-friendliness is renown throughout all of Chicago land.

As I have said before on the floor of this House, her service in Congress overlapped with the beginning of my teaching career in Yorkville, Illinois and her outstanding record helped inspire me to seek public office in the late 1970s. In fact, Charley's endorsement and work on my behalf helped me get elected in 1986 during my first and toughest race.

After raising her family of four, she worked side by side with her husband Frank as he ran for the House of Representatives in 1962. When Frank suddenly died, she was elected in his stead. She won re-election in four terms bringing her solid Midwestern values to this House. Charlotte went on to be appointed to the F.C.C. where she served with distinction until the mid-70s and was later appointed by President Reagan to serve on the Presidential Task Force on International Private Enterprise from 1985–1987.

To be sure, Charley's surviving children (Patricia, Susan, and Frank), eight grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren, should be proud of the legacy she has left behind and carry her spirit for life with them in their journeys.

Madam Speaker, we are all indebted to Charlotte Thompson Reid for her energy, her gentle manner and what she meant for this country. I offer her family my sincere condolences during this difficult time and wish them the very best in the future.

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Madam Speaker, during the month of February, we celebrate Black History Month. This year's theme is "From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas."

I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a man who exemplifies the characteristics of a leader in the African American community. It is with great pride that I introduce and honor Farrell J. Chiles as he celebrates his 9th year as a member of Blacks In Government (BIG) and on completion of his

5th consecutive year as its Chairman of the Board.

In 2000, Mr. Chiles began his leadership role within BIG as the President of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Area Chapter. The following year, he was elected to the board of directors of the National Organization.

In 2000, Mr. Chiles became the Chairman of the Board and has been re-elected for 4 consecutive years. During his chairmanship, the organization has grown and achieved remarkable successes.

Mr. Chiles is also a Life Member of the NAACP and the ROCKS, Inc., and an associate member of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Mr. Chiles is presently employed with the Department of the Army, at the 63rd Regional Readiness Command in Los Alamitos, California where he serves as the Division Chief of the Human Resources Division. He is a member of the United States Army Reserve, a Vietnam Veteran, and was mobilized for a year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He is a Life member and former board member of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association. Mr. Chiles is also a Life Member of the Reserve Officers Association. During Black History Month in 2005, he presented a report at its MidWinter Conference entitled "African American Warrant Officers—In Service to their Country—Their History, Achievement, and Contributions to the Military and the United States." This year, his presentation is on African American Warrant Officers during World War II.

Mr. Chiles served on the 37th Congressional District's Veterans Congressional Council and is a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

It is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Mr. Chiles and his significant accomplishments throughout his career, his leadership with Blacks In Government, and his service to the African American community and his country.

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HONORING THE DIOCESE OF ORANGE COUNTY

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 2007*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Diocese of Orange County which has recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and thank Bishop Tod Brown for his leadership of the Diocese.

The Diocese of Orange was established in 1976 after 200 years of presence by the Catholic Church symbolized by the Mission at San Juan Capistrano built in 1776.

Since its original charter, The Diocese of Orange has always stood for justice and peace and has grown with Orange County providing immeasurable service to the community.

The Diocese has a hand in the education of over 65,000 students from elementary through high school instilling values of community involvement and a strong moral compass.

The Diocese has also provided assistance to over 400,000 patients through its clinics, health centers, and hospitals in Orange County.