

HONORING FORMER MINNESOTA
GOVERNOR HAROLD E. STASSEN

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, April 13, 2007, marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of former Minnesota Governor Harold E. Stassen.

I rise to pay tribute to the life of this remarkable Minnesotan and true patriot, who dedicated his life to serving our country.

Born on a farm in West St. Paul, Minnesota, Harold Stassen graduated from law school and earned the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the ROTC by the age of 21. At just 22, he was elected Dakota County attorney, a position he held for 9 years.

In 1938, Harold Stassen was elected Governor of Minnesota, taking office at the age of 31. He was the youngest person ever elected governor of any state, a distinction that lasts to this day. During his tenure, Harold Stassen was a visionary and creative leader.

In his 1942 campaign for reelection, Governor Stassen said that if he was reelected, he would resign after the legislative session to join the U.S. Navy, saying, "Our boys are fighting for the right of freedom, and I want to be with them."

As promised, following the 1943 legislative session he resigned as governor and joined the U.S. Navy on the Battleship USS *Missouri* in the Third Pacific Fleet. He was awarded three battle stars, led the Navy's POW evacuation program in Japan and was on duty on the main deck of the *Missouri* when the message came that the Japanese had surrendered. In fact, he entered the receipt of that historic message in the USS *Missouri's* log book.

In February of 1945, President Roosevelt named Harold Stassen as one of eight members of the American delegation to the Founding Conference of the United Nations in San Francisco, where he was later named one of the two most influential people in drafting the United Nations Charter.

Stassen later played a key role in convincing Dwight D. Eisenhower to run for the Republican nomination for President. Upon his election, Eisenhower appointed Stassen Director of Mutual Security, which carried a Cabinet rank and included all foreign operations, foreign aid, relief, military and assistance programs, distribution of arms and technical and educational assistance.

As a member of President Eisenhower's Cabinet, Stassen was also active in implementing the 1955 Geneva Summit, for which he drafted the Arms Limitation and "Open Skies" proposals initiated by GEN James Doolittle and presented by President Eisenhower at the summit. Having experienced first-hand the horror of war, Stassen spent the remainder of his political and public life working for world peace.

Harold E. Stassen dedicated his life to serving our country, both in the armed forces and as a public servant and elected official. The country is grateful for his meritorious contribution to the security and national interests of the United States and his long legacy of public service. He died 40 days short of turning 95, on March 4, 2002.

DOROTHY IRENE HEIGHT, CHAIR
AND PRESIDENT EMERITA, NA-
TIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO
WOMEN

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a national treasure and American icon on the occasion of her 95th birthday. I am speaking, of course, of the incomparable, irrepresible, and legendary Dorothy Irene Height. For more than half a century, Dorothy Irene Height has played a leading role in the never ending struggle for equality and human rights here at home and around the world. Her life exemplifies her passionate commitment for a just society and her vision of a better world.

Dorothy Height was born in Richmond, VA, on March 24, 1912, and educated in the public schools of Rankin, PA, a borough of Pittsburgh, where her family moved when she was four. She established herself early as a dedicated student with exceptional oratorical skills. After winning a \$1,000 scholarship in a national oratorical contest on the United States Constitution, sponsored by the Fraternal Order of the Elks, and compiling a distinguished academic record, she enrolled in New York University where she earned both her bachelor and master's degrees in just 4 years. She continued her postgraduate studies at Columbia University and the New York School of Social Work.

In 1933, Dorothy Height joined the United Christian Youth Movement of North America where her leadership qualities earned her the trust and confidence of her peers. It was during this period that she began to emerge as an effective civil rights advocate as she worked to prevent lynching, desegregate the armed forces, reform the criminal justice system, and provide free access to public accommodations. In 1935, Dorothy Height was appointed by New York government officials to deal with the aftermath of the Harlem riot of 1935.

As Vice President of the United Christian Youth Movement of North America, Dorothy Height was one of only ten American youth delegates to the 1937 World Conference on Life and Work of the Churches held in Oxford, England. Two years later she was selected to represent the YWCA at the World Conference of Christian Youth in Amsterdam, Holland.

It was in 1937, while serving as Assistant Executive Director of the Harlem YWCA, that Dorothy Height met Mary McLeod Bethune, founder and president of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). Mrs. Bethune was immediately impressed with young Dorothy Height's poise and intelligence and invited her to join the NCNW and assist in the quest for women's rights to full and equal employment, pay and education.

In 1938, Dorothy Height was one of ten young Americans invited by Eleanor Roosevelt to Hyde Park, NY, to help plan and prepare for the World Youth Conference to be held at Vassar College.

For the next several years, Dorothy Height served in a dual role: as a YWCA staff member and NCNW volunteer, integrating her training as a social worker and her commitment to

rise above the limitations of race and sex. She rose quickly through the ranks of the YWCA, from working at the Emma Ransom House in Harlem to the Executive Directorship of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA in Washington, DC, to the YWCA National Headquarters office.

For 33 years, from 1944 through 1977, Dorothy Height served on the staff of the National Board of the YWCA and held several leadership positions in public affairs and leadership training and as Director of the National YWCA School for Professional Workers. In 1965, she was named Director of the Center for Racial Justice, a position she held until her retirement.

In 1952, Dorothy Height lived in India, where she worked as a visiting professor in the Delhi School of Social Work at the University of Delhi, which was founded by the YWCAs of India, Burma and Ceylon. She would become renowned for her internationalism and humanitarianism. She traveled around the world expanding the work of the YWCA. She conducted a well-received study of the training of women's organizations in five African countries: Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Nigeria under the Committee of Correspondence.

Dorothy Height loved and led her sorority, Delta Sigma Theta. She was elected National President of the sorority in 1947 and served in that capacity until 1956. She led the sorority to a new level of organizational development, initiation eligibility, and social action throughout her term. Her leadership training skills, social work background and knowledge of volunteerism benefited the sorority as it moved into a new era of activism on the national and international scene.

In 1957, Dorothy Height was elected the fourth National President of NCNW and served in that position for 40 years, when she became Chair of the Board and President Emerita.

In 1960, Dorothy Height was the woman team member leader in the United Civil Rights Leadership along with Martin Luther King, Jr., Whitney H. Young, A. Philip Randolph, James Farmer, Roy Wilkins and John Lewis. In 1961, while Dorothy Height was participating in major Civil Rights leadership, she led NCNW to deal with unmet needs among women and their families to combat hunger, develop cooperative pig banks, and provided families with community freezers and showers.

In 1964, after the passage of the Civil Rights Act, Dorothy Height with Polly Cowan, an NCNW Board Member, organized teams of women of different races and faiths as "Wednesdays in Mississippi" to assist in the freedom schools and open communication between women of different races. The workshops which followed stressed the need for decent housing which became the basis for NCNW in partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to develop Turnkey III Home Ownership for low-income families in Gulfport, MS.

In 1970, Dorothy Height directed the series of activities culminating in the YWCA Convention adopting as its "One Imperative" to the elimination of racism. That same year she also established the Women's Center for Education and Career Advancement in New York City to prepare women for entry-level jobs. This experience led her in 1975 to collaborate with Pace College to establish a course of study leading to the Associate Degree for Professional Studies (AAPS).

In 1975, Dorothy Height participated in the Tribunal at the International Women's Year Conference of the United Nations in Mexico City. As a result of this experience, NCNW was awarded a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to hold a conference within the conference for women from the United States, African countries, South America, Mexico and the Caribbean. This was followed with a site visit with 50 of the women to visit with rural women in Mississippi. Under the auspices of the USAID, Dorothy Height lectured in South Africa after addressing the National Convention of the Black Women's Federation of South Africa near Johannesburg (1977). Since 1986, she has worked tirelessly to strengthen the Black family.

Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Dorothy Height: NCNW achieved tax-exempt status in 1966; NCNW dedicated the statue of Mary McLeod Bethune in Lincoln Park, Washington DC in 1974—the first woman to be so honored on public land in the Nation's Capital; developed model national and community-based programs ranging from teenage parenting to pig "banks"—which addressed hunger in rural areas; established the Bethune Museum and Archives for Black Women, the first institution devoted to black women's history; established the Bethune Council House as a national historic site; transformed NCNW into an issue-oriented political organization, sponsoring "Wednesdays in Mississippi" when interracial groups of women would help out at Freedom Schools organizing voter registration drives in the South and fostering communications between black and white women; and established the Black Family Reunion Celebration in 1986 to reinforce the historic strengths and traditional values of the black family.

Among the major awards bestowed upon Dorothy Irene Height in gratitude and appreciation for her service to our Nation and the world are the following: Presidential Medal of Freedom presented by President Bill Clinton; Congressional Gold Medal presented by President George W. Bush; John F. Kennedy Memorial Award; NAACP—Spingarn Medal; Hadassah Myrtle Wreath of Achievement; Ministerial Interfaith Association Award; Ladies Home Journal—Woman of the Year; Congressional Black Caucus—Decades of Service; President Ronald Reagan—Citizens Medal; Franklin Roosevelt—Freedom Medal; Essence Award; and the Camille Cosby World of Children Award.

Dorothy Height was also elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame and is the recipient of 36 honorary degrees from colleges and universities as diverse as: Tuskegee University, Harvard University, Spelman College, Princeton University, Bennett College, Pace University, Lincoln University, Columbia University, Howard University, New York University, Morehouse College, and Meharry Medical College.

Madam Speaker, Dorothy Height has witnessed or participated in virtually every major movement for social and political change in the last century. For nearly 75 years, Dorothy Height has fought for the equality and human rights of all people. She was the only female member of the "Big 6" civil rights leaders (Whitney Young, Jr., A. Philip Randolph, Martin Luther King, Jr., James Farmer, and Roy Wilkins). Her vision and dedication made

NCNW the premier organization in advocating for the health, education and economic empowerment for all women of African descent around the world.

Thank you, Dorothy Height, for your service to our Nation. You have made America a better place for all persons of all races, religions, and backgrounds. You have mentored hundreds, been a role model to thousands, and a hero to millions. You are an American original. I am glad to count you as a friend.

HONORING FRANK KRUESI

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of my friend, Frank Kruesi. After 9 years of dedicated service, Kruesi is retiring as President of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA).

Prior to his service at the CTA, Mr. Kruesi served as Chief Policy Officer for the City of Chicago for Mayor Richard M. Daley. He also served as the Executive Officer of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and was the legislative assistant to then-Senator Richard M. Daley in the Illinois General Assembly, where he focused on mental disabilities, human services, and juvenile justice legislative initiatives.

Mr. Kruesi's more than 30 years of public service have included service at every level of government including serving as Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy in the United States Department of Transportation under President Clinton. In that post, he advised two Secretaries of Transportation and developed policy initiatives in all forms of transportation.

Throughout his career, Frank Kruesi has overseen numerous achievements met by the CTA. Under Mr. Kruesi's leadership, CTA has made service improvements on two-thirds of its bus routes and on all, its rail routes. A total of 281 bus of service improvements have been implemented which include 25 new bus routes, expanded hours of service, added trips to reduce wait time, and route changes to improve access and connectivity.

Innovative programs such as U-Pass, a program of discounted passes for college students, have also been implemented during Mr. Kruesi's tenure. The program is the largest of its kind in the Nation, with 76,000 students at 33 area colleges participating.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois, I congratulate Frank Kruesi on his long career and thank him for his service to the City of Chicago. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF OUR NATION'S NURSES

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's nurses during

National Nurse Recognition Week. From Florence Nightingale, to Clara Barton, to the unsung heroes of today, the nurses of this country have provided invaluable service in times of peace and of war. Providing comfort to the elderly, the sick, and the dying is a, noble yet all too often thankless task. It is for this reason that we take this week in May to honor the extraordinary contributions of nurses to society.

On March 30, 1981 President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest outside the Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. He was then rushed to the George Washington University Hospital. When recounting his experience, President Reagan often spoke of a nurse who held his hand as he was taken into surgery. This simple act by an unknown woman comforted the President during his time of pain and fear. Almost a year later, President Reagan proclaimed that National Recognition Day for Nurses would be observed on May 6. Since then, the recognition has been expanded to a weeklong celebration.

With over 2.7 million registered nurses in this country, nursing is the largest health care profession. These men and women administer care, with profound compassion, in homes, hospitals, and schools across the nation. The theme of this year's National Nurses Week is, fittingly, "Nursing . . . profession and a passion." When Americans fall ill, it is the nurse who tends to their daily needs and provides comfort in times of uncertainty and pain. I want to take this opportunity to thank our nation's nurses for their commitment to the service of others.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH KEANE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a dear friend Joseph "Joey" Keane, a man who inspired countless people in my hometown of South Buffalo through his example, strength of character, and spirit.

Joey Keane's life was filled with many blessings. He was blessed with an extraordinary family; his parents Richard and Catherine Keane embraced him with love and care as they did all of their children, his 15 siblings, 7 sisters and 8 brothers, enriched his life with love, laughter, and respect, and the Seneca Street neighborhood that was his home and the place where he was beloved by neighbors, family friends, and business owners alike.

The Keanes are a politically prominent family in Buffalo, NY. Joey's brothers Dick & Jim were elected to public office, his brother Neil served as Fire Commissioner but many would argue that Joey was the best politician of them all.

His brother Jim explained Joey and the impact he has had on others best when he said, "Joey's taught us a lot of lessons, and he's taught us the lighter side of life. I think Joey has made it easier for all of us to laugh at ourselves. That's part of the Joey Keane mystique. You learn humility and how to laugh at yourself from the Joey Keanes of the world."

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to the entire Keane