

Today, Nagorno Karabakh continues to strengthen its statehood with a democratically elected government, a capable defense force, and an independent foreign policy.

I stand with the people of Nagorno Karabakh in celebrating their continuing freedom and democracy.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my deepest condolences on the passing of Congressman TOM LANTOS, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and my respected colleague from California.

As news spread on Monday of Chairman LANTOS' passing at age 80 due to complications from cancer, a great sadness resonated throughout the House of Representatives and all of Washington. This House, the Nation, and especially the people of California have lost a great champion for human rights, a very personal cause of Representative LANTOS. He was the only Holocaust survivor to ever be elected to Congress and his own experiences enlightened his service and enriched his service in this body.

Throughout his 14 terms in the House of Representatives, Representative LANTOS conducted himself with dignity, grace, and a passion for human rights. As co-chairman and founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, a group that highlights human rights violations worldwide, he was able to provide a platform and a voice for persecuted peoples around the globe.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Representative LANTOS' wife Annette, their two daughters, their 18 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren in their time of mourning. It was an honor and a privilege to serve with TOM LANTOS these last 28 years in the House of Representatives. I know that he will be remembered in the hearts of his family and friends for all the love and support he has given to them and so many others throughout the years.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE
NAACP ON ITS 99TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, as an original co-sponsor, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 289, which honors the NAACP on its 99th anniversary.

I want to thank Congressman AL GREEN, who served as president of the Houston Branch of the NAACP for over 10 years, for once again introducing this important resolution.

I also want to recognize the outstanding job that NAACP Chairman Julian Bond has done in leading the organization.

Almost a century ago, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in New York City during this month of February that we now recognize as Black History Month.

As a child of the civil rights movement, I witnessed first hand the leadership of the NAACP in fighting for human rights.

I remember vividly, the role the NAACP played in shattering segregation in my birthplace of El Paso, Texas.

We all know their great contributions:

From the victory in Brown vs. Board of Education, to the non-violent sit ins at segregated lunch counters, to passage of the Voting Rights Act, the NAACP has played a central role in every great civil rights battle of the last century.

Today, the Nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization continues to be a powerful voice in the ongoing struggle against injustice, oppression, and war.

The NAACP has been a dedicated and constant partner as I have worked with my colleagues to end the war in Iraq, stop the genocide in Darfur, and eradicate the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

They opposed the Iraq war from the beginning and support our efforts to end the occupation and bring the troops home.

They led the charge in support of my bill authorizing divestment from Sudan and they worked with faith, activist and student groups to ensure that it got signed into law at the end of last year.

And on HIV/AIDS, they have consistently been on the frontlines advocating for increased funding to help end the devastation this disease has caused in the African American community.

In short, the NAACP continues to demonstrate their commitment to stand on the battlefield and lead the charge for what is right. They deserve this honor and our praise and they deserve our thanks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING STEVEN J. BREEZE

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Centralia, Illinois native Steven J. Breeze on being awarded the United States Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross and upon his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel.

Lt. Col. Breeze was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his role in a March 22, 2003 mission during Operation Iraqi Freedom. His low level flight lasted 3 hours, covering 590 miles. His skills saved 58 lives and delivered an assault force on time to their destination.

I am proud to recognize Lt. Col. Breeze for his service to the United States of America. I join a grateful Nation in thanking him for his service and congratulating him on this award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, on February 13, 2008, I was unable to participate in the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows;

Rollcall vote 43, I would have voted "yea."
Rollcall vote 44, I would have voted "yea."
Rollcall vote 45, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. Bishop of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably absent yesterday afternoon, February 13, on very urgent business. Had I been present for the five votes which occurred yesterday, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 48; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 49; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 50; I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 976, rollcall vote No. 51; and I would have voted "no" on Motion to Adjourn, rollcall vote No. 52.

COMMEMORATING THE OPENING
OF THE DENTON COUNTY AFRICAN
AMERICAN MUSEUM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the opening of the Denton County African American Museum. This museum is being dedicated on Saturday, February 16, 2008, and will reflect the resilience and determination of the African American citizens of Denton County.

The museum is located in an original Quakertown house that was restored under the guidance of the Historical Park Foundation of Denton County. With its dedication, the Denton County African American Museum joins the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum and the Bayless-Selby House Museum as part of the Denton County Museums.

The Museum's historical exhibits will feature African American families of Denton County as well as the Quakertown experience. It will also house the collection of artifacts from Dr. Edwin D. Moten, Denton's first African American doctor. The collection includes more than 600 letters written by Dr. Moten to family, friends, and professional colleagues as well as photographs, postcards, medical records, medicine cases, his medical shingle from in front of his office, prescription pads and narcotics register from Denton County.

As someone who practiced medicine in the Denton area for nearly 30 years, I am fascinated by the pieces in Dr. Moten's collection from both a medical and a historical perspective. My own grandfather, Dr. Harry Clifton