

explores the significance of common, everyday actions that we all can take to honor our Nation's veterans. She contends that honoring our veterans in national day of celebration is important, but extending our support in simple everyday actions is perhaps the best way that we can display our gratitude.

Chelsea reflects on these ideas, discussing a visit to her WWII veteran grandfather, Pepe, at his retirement home. On the visit, she realized the impact of the smallest encouraging gesture from a nurse and the simple act of the family's visit had on her veteran grandfather. Through expressions of love, encouragement, and general thoughtfulness we are all able to honor America's veterans.

Simple actions can produce profound effects. Chelsea's insights will not only work to honor America's veterans, but will produce a kinder, more thoughtful society. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues to join with me and my constituents in recognizing Chelsea's achievement and fulfilling her ideas on honoring our Nation's veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC CONTRIBUTIONS FROM AFRICA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the historical contributions that Africa has made to civilization. Too often their contributions are overlooked. Rulers and leaders such as Tenhamenin, Sonni Ali, Abram Hannibal, Chaka, Nelson Mandela, Julius Nyerre and Kwame Nkrumah, just to name a few, are often briefly mentioned or forgotten. Africa is a diverse continent, with natural resources, growth opportunity and a strong history, which needs more recognition and support.

In recognition of the importance of Africa, I am pleased that President George Bush has made his second trip to Africa, visiting Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana and Liberia to encourage and support these countries' government stability and economic growth potential. During the spring district work period, March 17–26, 2008, I am leading a bipartisan Committee on Ways and Means delegation to South Africa, Lesotho, Uganda, Ghana and Mali to meet with government officials in regard to broadening and deepening trade and economic ties between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa.

As a result of the President's visit to Africa and mine, I hope that Americans will become more aware of the contributions made by Africans and the importance of this great continent so that their contributions to civilization will no longer be ignored or forgotten.

[From the Caribbean News]

STORIES TO BE TOLD AND CHAPTERS TO ENSURE THAT AFRICAN CONTRIBUTION TO HUMAN CIVILIZATION BECOMES COMMON KNOWLEDGE AROUND THE WORLD

(By Tony Best)

Turn back the hands of time.

It's 1066 and the man history later dubbed "William the Conqueror," the illegitimate son of Duke Robert of Normandy, invaded England to claim what he saw was his inheritance and was crowned King on Christmas Day of that year.

At the same time, Tenhamenin, the ruler of the vast Ghana Empire, could place 200,000 warriors on the field of battle in Africa and with precision and military strategy take on all adversaries.

Fast forward to 1488, a period of feudalism in Europe. It was in that year that the rulers of Songhay, the third of the great African empires, conquered Mali and took control of the fabled City of Timbuktu, the site of the University of Sankore, an important international center of learning in the world that attracted prominent scholars, both Black and White. These are but two nuggets of history, long hidden from global public view and scholarly research in the major universities of Europe and North America.

Chances are thousands of students at some of America's historically Black colleges and universities will hear this month much about the empires of Ghana, Mali, Songhay and Kanem that thrived on the African continent between the year 1000 and 16th century, promoting trade, developing seats of learning and fostering the use of *precio*.

The focus on Black achievement in February brings to center-stage the vital and multi-faceted roles played by peoples of African descent in advancing human development globally. From their ancestral homeland in Africa to North America, the Caribbean, Latin America and other parts of the world, people of color have been instrumental in improving the daily lives of human beings everywhere.

It's a contribution that has been deliberately ignored, downplayed or distorted by many white historians and archeologists. Hence, the value of Black History Month in North America.

Names that run the gamut from Pianky, the military genius and Black King of Nubia who conquered Egypt around 700 BC; Antar, the African-Arabian poet and story teller; Sonni Ali, the 15th century warrior king of Songhay, and Abram Hannibal, the soldier and commander of 18th century Russia to Chaka who led and forged the proud Black nation of South until his assassination in 1828 and Estavancio, Arizona's African "discoverer," dot the page of history.

Their presence and deeds underscore an essential reality: Blacks have been part and parcel of world history, present from exploration and revolution to scientific and other technological achievements.

Along with the Hittites, Blacks from Africa pioneered in the making of iron, fashioned precious stones into historic ornaments, statues and valuable works of art and used oil-bearing plants for both medicinal and dietary purposes.

They developed cereal and transformed a wild plant into cotton, thus opening up the world the art of weaving.

They were among the world's first farmers, producing wheat, groundnuts, yams, watermelons and possibly coffee.

During the heydays of Greek civilization, when Herodotus, the famous historian wrote about the "Black and curly-haired" soldiers in the army of Xerxes around 480 BC and when the Roman Empire was at its heights and Kush was an African province of Rome in the 4th century A.D. Blacks weren't ignored.

In much later times when the Empires of Ghana, Mali, Songhay and Kanem and when Europe was experiencing the "Dark Ages," African states were flourishing with established governmental systems, proud universities and successful commercial activity.

Today, after centuries of colonial and imperial domination, Africa is emerging as a region with immense potential that can be an example to the rest of the world in the decades ahead.

After being brutalized by 19th and 20th century European expansionism, civilization

and bigotry, the African continent succeeded in gaining self-rule, beginning with Ghana in 1957. In the decades since then, a mix of the residual and pernicious effects of colonialism and dictatorial rule, derailed many of the dreams of hundreds of millions of people in Africa and stifled progress.

But things have changed. More countries have embraced open government, are abiding by the rule of law, the will of the people and are harnessing their vast human and natural resources for the upliftment of all.

In addition, towering international figures, including Nelson Mandela, a global hero of courage and principle, the late Julius Nyerre, the first President of Tanzania, Kwame Nkrumah, who led the way by becoming the first African in the 20th century to Head an independent nation as colonial rule began to crumble and Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, have taken their rightful places as leaders who gave direction and purpose to the international community.

Unfortunately though, Kenya suffered a severe setback in December 2007, when a scandalous hijacking of the presidential elections by supporters of the incumbent leader, Mwai Kibaki, triggered a bloodbath that left almost 1,000 dead and hundreds of thousands of Kenyans homeless.

But that is expected to be a temporary setback along the road of progress.

As the story of the exploits of Black people emerges from the bottom draw of history which recorded by Whites, especially Europeans, the accurate picture that surfaces is one not simply of grandeur of days past but of concrete achievement and of a bright future.

HONORING ROSLYN MCCALLISTER BROCK

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 3, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Roslyn McCallister Brock, vice chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People board of directors and a member of their National Board of Trustees. Roslyn will be the keynote speaker at the Flint Branch-NAACP's 27th annual Freedom Fund dinner on March 1, 2008.

After graduating magna cum laude from Virginia Union University, Roslyn earned her master's degree in health services administration from George Washington University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She worked with the health programs at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for 10 years and is currently the director of system fund development at Bon Secours Health System, Incorporated.

Roslyn McCallister Brock is the youngest person and first woman elected to the vice chair position in the history of the NAACP. After holding several leadership positions with the NAACP, she was elected unanimously to this position in February 2001 at the age of 35.

In addition to this honor, Roslyn has received substantial recognition for her community service. She received the Network Journal's 2004 "40-Under-Forty Achievement Award"; Ebony Magazine's 1989 "Future Leader Award"; the 1987 Good Housekeeping "100 Young Women of Promise" Award. She