

During the Great Depression, César's family lost their own farm. As such, César and his family joined the migrant farming community. César was only 10 years old when he began to work in the fields and vineyards of the southwest. He learned first hand about the injustices and indignities experienced by migrant farm workers.

Founder of the National Farm Workers Association and its successor the United Farm Workers of America, César led the Nation's first triumphant farm workers union.

César E. Chávez was a champion of workers' rights. He showed incredible dedication to social justice through his efforts on behalf of farm workers to garner improved wages, medical coverage, pension benefits, safer working conditions, humane living conditions and an end to child labor in the fields.

His remarkable achievements were realized through non-violent protest, through fasts, strikes and boycotts. This makes his accomplishments all the more meaningful and sets an example that is to be held in the highest regard.

César was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times by the American Friends Service Committee. He received the distinguished Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Because César Chávez embodies so completely both the spirit and values of our Nation I believe it is only right to establish a national holiday in his honor. "Si se puede."

Again, I wish to thank Congressman BACA for introducing this important legislation and calling attention to one of our Nation's greatest heroes.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 1, 2008*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the House Resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In mourning the loss of Dr. King, we must also simultaneously celebrate the life and legacy of this courageous civil rights leader.

For the better part of his life, Dr. King stood in protest to inequality. He provided a voice to people once silenced by bigotry and intolerance. He preached nonviolence as a means of securing the fundamental principles of equality and justice, endowed to all people in the United States Constitution. Through his actions and life, Dr. King aided in creating the world we live in today. I am deeply humbled and inspired by his resolve to achieve change in America. Dr. King's work as a civil rights activist and leader has been studied in depth. But, often overlooked is his stance against the war in Vietnam. In the wake of Jeremiah White's comments, I believe that it is important to understand that Dr. King was more than the icon we have created in our efforts to sanctify him. Yes, he lifts the dreamer and man who worked for racial reconciliation, but he was as

well a leader with a strong moral vision who was willing to call our great Nation to task when it failed to live up to the standards he saw created by our Declaration of Independence and Constitution.

Many parallels exist between Dr. King's opposition to the war in Vietnam and my opposition of the war in Iraq. Dr. King believed, as I believe, that the United States Government will never invest the necessary funds and energy required to improve the situation of the poor in America, as long as the country's resources are being diverted to a war. Similarly, Dr. King and I both agree that war disproportionately affects the poor, as more of them are sent to fight and die on foreign soil. As Dr. King once stated, "A time comes when silence is betrayal," and today that time has come for us in relation to Iraq.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man of steadfast conviction, determination, sheer grit, and uncompromising faith. That is why today, I stand here advocating the House Resolution commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who has impacted the lives each and every American.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING COACH DAVID BORTER FOR COACHING THE HILAND HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM TO WINNING THE GIRLS' DIVISION IV STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Coach David Borter showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, David Borter was a leader and mentor for the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team; and

Whereas, Coach Borter has been a role model for sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Coach David Borter for leading the Hiland High School Girls' Basketball Team to winning the Girls' Division IV State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and leadership he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 Basketball season.

CONGRATULATING SARAH LONG DAMSON FOR BEING NAMED FIRST LADY OF MOBILE

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Mrs. Sarah Long Damson on the occasion of her being named First Lady of Mobile for 2007. The Mobile chapters of Beta Sigma Phi, an international women's network with

over 165,000 members, recently bestowed this honor on Sarah.

A native of Mobile, Sarah is a tireless volunteer and has devoted her entire life to improving the lives of countless people who call Mobile and South Alabama home.

Sarah and her husband Tom are co-owners of Long's Human Resource Center, a multi-million dollar business passed on to them by Sarah's father. She serves as chairman of the board of the 60-year-old company with locations in Mobile, Fairhope and Foley.

However, Sarah's commitment to South Alabama goes far beyond the walls of her business. She has been active with the United Way for decades, and she is an emeritus board member of the organization. She is the first woman to lead the United Way of Southwest Alabama's annual fundraising campaign and head its board of trustees. She has also served as chairman of The Alexis de Tocqueville Society, a national movement within the United Way that recognizes individuals who donate \$10,000 to \$1 million annually.

In addition to her involvement with the United Way, Sarah serves on various boards at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church and was the first woman to serve on the local Regions Bank board. She is a past president of the Junior League of Mobile and is also on the Board of Trustees of Spring Hill College. Sarah is an active member of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce and has served on its board of directors as well.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, Sarah was the first woman to receive the prestigious Austin Cup, awarded to the most outstanding graduate of the University's Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business.

Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my personal congratulations to Mrs. Sarah Long Damson for being named the First Lady of Mobile for 2007; truly, no one is more deserving of this high honor. And in so doing, I would also like to recognize Sarah for her lifetime of outstanding professional and philanthropic accomplishments; she is truly a role model for our entire community.

Furthermore, I would ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this respected and dedicated friend to many throughout South Alabama. I know Sarah's family; her husband, Tom; their two wonderful daughters, Mary Stewart Crane and Liz Freeman; her grandchildren and her many friends and other family join me in praising Sarah's accomplishments and extending thanks for her never-ending efforts to make South Alabama a better place to live and call home.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ALBERT HAROUTOUNIAN

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 3, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Albert Haroutounian of Honey Brook, Pennsylvania, who died in Iraq on March 10, 2008.

Albert was a linguist working on contract in Iraq for the Trinity Technology Group. Albert was on a mission when his vehicle was hit by