

Sherrod ever sent me was a story about his mother: She'd grown up and away from Georgia and its troubled ways, and insisted that her boys always call African-American adults "Mr." or "Mrs." None of this first-name business meant to telegraph who was, and who wasn't, worthy of full regard.

Emily's accomplishments wove through issues of racial and economic justice. When it came to making a difference, she did not wait for the invitation. During the 2004 presidential race, she organized a voter-registration drive in a poorer section of Mansfield. There was the meticulously dressed, 84-year-old Emily, with a curve in her back and sensible shoes on her feet, dragging a card table out of the trunk of her car, day after day. She registered more than 1,000 voters that year.

One recent morning, after weeks bed-ridden, Emily asked for a hand mirror and was devastated by the face looking back at her. "I look so awful, Connie," she told me hours later. "Just awful."

I cupped her cheek with my hand. "Emily, you were always a beautiful woman, and you're beautiful now. That spirit of yours is shining through."

She scoffed, and I pushed. "Emily, you know I say exactly what I mean."

She rolled her eyes, acknowledging the occasional sparks that fired between us. "Yes," she said, "I know you do."

"If I say you look beautiful, it must be true."

She managed a small laugh. "Well, then, you're right. It has to be true."

In the last weeks of Emily's life, her energy came in short but astonishing bursts, and whoever was at her side leaned in with a hunger. One evening, we talked about Harper Lee's novel, "To Kill a Mockingbird."

"Oh, that was one of my favorite books," Emily said. "I read it over and over."

She was quiet for a moment. "I always loved the boy. The boy, Jeremy. Remember that scene at the jail?"

His nickname was Jem, and his father, lawyer Atticus Finch, had planted himself next to the county jail to make sure a black man falsely accused of rape wasn't killed overnight by a gang of angry white men. Jem defied his father's orders and joined him. When Atticus insisted he go home, the boy refused.

"No, suh," Emily said slowly and softly, quoting Jem. "No, suh, I will not leave."

A week later, though, she did just that.

A few hours after Emily died, I returned to work, as she would have wanted, and opened a large envelope from an anonymous reader. Inside, I found a profane poster plastered with my face next to one of the most pejorative words for my gender. I thought of our family's adage, that whenever we're challenged, we ask ourselves, "What would Emily do?"

I turned to my keyboard, revved up the computer and heard Emily Campbell Brown's voice whisper in my ear: "No, suh, I will not leave."

And I started to write.

REFLECTIONS ON THE LIFE OF
HAZEL SCOTT—A TRIBUTE TO
HER FIRST BIOGRAPHY, WRIT-
TEN BY KAREN CHILTON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam, Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the family of the late and great Hazel Scott and the author of Hazel Scott's first memoir, Karen Chilton for writing such an important biographical book on a stellar Caribbean American pianist, singer, actress, and activist.

In 1939, when Café Society, New York City's first fully integrated nightclub, was all the rage, Hazel Scott was its star. Still a teenager, she wowed audiences with her jazz renditions of classical masterpieces by Chopin, Bach, and Rachmaninoff. A child prodigy, born in Trinidad and raised in Harlem in the 1920s, Scott's musical talent was cultivated by her musician mother, Alma Long Scott, as well as several great jazz luminaries of the period, namely, Art Tatum, Fats Waller, Billie Holiday, and Lester Young.

Career success was swift for the young pianist—she auditioned at the prestigious Juilliard School when she was only eight years old, hosted her own radio show at fourteen, and shared the bill at Roseland Ballroom with the Count Basie Orchestra at fifteen. After several stand-out performances on Broadway,

club impresario Barney Josephson proclaimed Hazel Scott the "Darling of Café Society."

By the time Hollywood came calling, Scott had achieved such stature that she could successfully challenge the studios' deplorable treatment of black actors. She would later become one of the first black women to host her own television show.

During the 1940s and '50s, her sexy and vivacious presence captivated fans worldwide. She was known for improvising on classical themes and also played boogie-woogie, blues, and ballads. Her marriage to the late and great Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., whom I succeeded, made them one of the country's most high-profile African American families.

In a career spanning over four decades, Hazel Scott became known not only for her accomplishments on stage and screen, but for her outspoken advocacy of civil rights. Her relentless crusade on behalf of African Americans, women, and artists made her the target of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) during the McCarthy Era, eventually forcing her to join the black expatriate community in Paris.

By age twenty-five, Hazel Scott was an international star but, before reaching thirty-five, she considered herself a failure. Plagued by insecurity and depression, she would try twice to take her own life. Her life came to a close, dying of pancreatic cancer, at the age of 61 on October 2, 1981.

Karen Chilton, a New York-based writer and actor who also co-authored "I Wish You Love," the jazz memoir of legendary vocalist Gloria Lynne, traces the fascinating arc of this brilliant and audacious American artist from stardom to ultimate obscurity. Readers will learn from the prelude to the civil rights movement to the dark moments in our nation's history where racial, ethnic, and political discrimination ran rampant.

So Madam Speaker, I ask that in this Black History Month, that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the life of Hazel Scott and thanking Karen Chilton. Karen truly authored a book that many generations of future stars will cherish.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2009 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 6

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine the employment situation for January 2009.

SD-106

FEBRUARY 10

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the financial rescue program, focusing on a new plan for the Trouble Asset Relief Program (TARP).

SD-106

Budget

To hold hearings to examine issues and budget options for health reform.

SD-608

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine renewable electricity standards proposal.

SD-366

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Elena Kagan, of Massachu-

setts, to be Solicitor General of the United States, and Thomas John Perrelli, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, both of the Department of Justice.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on North Korea.

SVC-217

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

FEBRUARY 11

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine veterans' disability compensation, focusing on the appeals process.

SR-418

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine policies to address the crises in financial and housing markets.

SD-608

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the need for increased fraud enforcement in the wake of the economic downturn.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.

Rules and Administration

Organizational business meeting to consider committee's funding resolution for the 111th Congress, and other pending business.

SR-301

10:45 a.m.

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine Senate Committee budget requests.

SR-301

FEBRUARY 12

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program, authorized under Title 17 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, and how the delivery of services to support the deployment of clean energy technologies might be improved.

SD-366

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine matters relating to Indian affairs.

SD-628

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine structuring national security and homeland security at the White House.

SD-342

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the world threat.

SH-216

FEBRUARY 24

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the semi-annual monetary policy report to the Congress.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of the Disabled American Veterans.

345, Cannon Building

MARCH 5

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentations of veterans' service organizations.

SD-106

MARCH 12

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine legislative presentations of veterans' service organizations.

SD-106

MARCH 18

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings to examine the legislative presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

334, Cannon Building