

HONORING DELANE GOWER
KINZLER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Delane Gower Kinzler, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 345, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Delane has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Delane has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Delane Gower Kinzler for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH CELEBRATE 125 YEARS OF MINISTRY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph. I would like to share some local history as provided by the Springfield Diocese.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield were founded in 1883 following a request by the pastor of St. Patrick's in Chicopee Falls. He needed help starting a parish school and so seven sisters from the New York Congregation moved to the Springfield Area. The small community grew slowly but steadily while educating poor immigrant children in central and western Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

By the mid 1960s, the ranks of the Springfield Congregation swelled to over one thousand women. The group had founded or staffed sixty schools and had established the Elms College.

Following the Second Vatican Council, the Sisters restructured their community life. Many moved out of convents and into small houses and apartments in local towns and cities. Their ministries expanded as well. No longer limited to schools, the Sisters worked in prisons, parishes, homeless shelters and other social services.

In the mid 1970s, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Fall River merged with the Springfield Congregation. In 2001, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rutland, Vermont joined the community which also covers Worcester, the Berkshires, Rhode Island and even Louisiana and Uganda. Today, the Springfield Congregation of about 300 Sisters continues to serve the people of God through a variety of Ministries.

Today we salute the Sisters of St. Joseph for 125 years of ministry as educators, pastoral ministers, innovators, evangelizers and social justice ministers. We thank the Sisters for their loving service to our communities.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have provided quality, values-based Catholic education to countless students and we are grateful for their immeasurable impact.

COMMENDING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ON ALLOWING FAMILY TRAVEL TO CUBA

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the President for his leadership and commitment to improve the United States' relationship with Cuba.

Lifting restrictions on family members' travels to the island and removing restrictions on remittances to Cuban families responds to both Cuban-American and Cubans' needs as well as it builds bridges between the American and the Cuban people.

I believe that keeping the family ties alive and allowing family members to assist one another are essential for Cuban citizens' quest for reform and a critical step towards the building of a trustworthy relationship.

Cuban-Americans are the best ambassadors to the Cuban people for democracy's core values. Diplomatic relations can begin with familial and cultural exchanges. This is especially true with Jazz music, which has always shown the sense of freedom.

Cuba has a rich musical tradition that has many admirers throughout the World, particularly in America. As more Cuban-Americans travel to Cuba, there will be increased opportunities to access this rich tradition. Reaching out in an effort to expand our common interest in culture and the arts will deepen our understanding of one another and serve as a bridge builder to more substantial bilateral relations.

In that spirit, I would like to submit this letter, from the US-Cuba Cultural Exchange, into the RECORD. This letter, written last March, urges the President to build a respectful and critical dialogue between the United States and Cuba through cultural exchange.

US-CUBA CULTURAL EXCHANGE,

Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 3, 2009.

President BARACK OBAMA,

*The White House,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: We are artists, arts presenters, arts educators, cultural entrepreneurs and scholars, and cultural heritage and policy professionals from diverse political persuasions. We have been adversely affected by the cultural embargo imposed by the U.S. government against both Cuban and American artists and cultural institutions. We are writing to request that you make concrete changes in U.S. policy towards Cuba that will allow for the uninhibited flow of art, culture, information, ideas and debates, as well as travel by artists, cultural workers and professionals, and arts and cultural aficionados between the two countries.

U.S. policies towards Cuba—worsened many times over by the previous administration and criticized throughout the world—have prevented us from engaging in critical communication and collaboration with our Cuban counterparts, compromising our nation's cherished ideals of freedom of expression and preventing cultural interchange between two societies that share a historic relationship lasting over two centuries.

In 2007 we requested policy changes from the Bush Administration so that respectful, critical dialogue and principled exchange could take place between the peoples of Cuba and the United States and our respective governments. Our petition fell on deaf ears. As citizens, artists, scholars, educators and cultural workers from all artistic practices and from advocacy and service organizations in the arts, we now call upon your Administration to:

1. open a respectful dialogue with the government and people of Cuba in accord with established protocols supported by the community of nations;

2. end the travel ban that prevents U.S. citizens from visiting Cuba, and allow for Cuban artists and scholars to visit the United States, thus eliminating the censorship of art and ideas, and

3. initiate, by working with the U.S. Congress, a process that can result in the development of normal, respectful bilateral relations between our countries.

The artistic and cultural communities in the United States and in Cuba are catalysts of imagination and creativity. We are committed to serve as bridges for our fellow citizens. Now, we need our government to take leadership and re-open the pathways of exchange.

We look forward to working with you to advance the interests of the United States and of Cuba.

Sincerely,

(Sampling of over 1,100 signatures from arts & culture as of March 2, 2009)

Patch Adams; Michael Alexander, Exec Dir, Grand Performances* & Chair, California Arts Council*; Stuart A. Ashman, Cabinet Secretary, State of New Mexico Cultural Affairs; Stephen Bailey, Executive Director/CEO, Grand Opera House; Amiri & Amina Baraka; Harry Belafonte; Laura Bickford, Film Producer; Beth Boone, Artistic & Executive Director, Miami Light Project; Jackson Browne, Songwriter; Jimmy Cobb, NEA Jazz Master, Drums; James Early, Artists & Intellectuals in Defense of Humanity; Charles Fishman, Executive Producer, Duke Ellington Jazz Festival; Danny Glover, Activist-Actor; Charlie Haden, Educator/Musician; Herbie Hancock, Musician/Chairman, Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz.*

Donald Harrison, Musician & Composer; Louis Head, US-Cuba Cultural Exchange; Oscar Hernandez, Musician/Composer; Mike Kappus, President, The Rosebud Agency; Robert Kraft, President, Fox Music; Vivien Lesnik Weisman, Filmmaker; Sandra Levinson, Director, Cuban Art Space/Center for Cuban Studies; Bill Martinez, Arts Attorney & Presenter, Martinez & Associates; Graham Nash; Lukas Nelson, Musician; Arturo O'Farrill, Musician & Founder, Afro Latin Jazz Alliance & 2009 Grammy Award Winner; Michael Orlove, Senior Program Dir, Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs; Eddie Palmieri; Armando Peraza, Musician; Dafnis Prieto, Musician.

Bonnie Raitt, Musician & Activist; Awilda Rivera, Radio Personality, WBGO-Jazz 88; Tito Rodriguez, Jr., Musician, Tito Rodriguez, Jr. Orchestra; Ann Rosenthal/Cathy Zimmerman, Co-Dirs, MAPP International Productions; David Rubinson, Music Producer; Poncho Sanchez, Musician; Carlos Santana, Musician; Pete Seeger; Scott Southard, Director, International Music Network; Mavis Staples and

Yvonne Staples, Singers; Ned Sublette, Independent Scholar; Yosvany Terry, Saxophonist & Composer; Dave Valentin, Latin Jazz Artist & Grammy Award Winner; Jesse "Chuy" Varela, Broadcaster/Writer, KCSM-FM 91/SF Chronicle; Howard Zinn, Author & Playwright.

CONGRATULATORY TRIBUTE TO DR. LARICE Y. COWAN ON THE ACCESSION OF HER RETIREMENT AS ASSISTANT CHANCELLOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHAMPAIGN URBANA CAMPUS.

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Larice Cowan, a fellow alumnus from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff who has distinguished herself as an outstanding academician and practitioner in the field of human relations and affirmative action. Dr. Cowan graduated from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology in 1971; she subsequently earned a Masters Degree in Social Work at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and a PhD in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Illinois at Champaign.

Dr. Cowan began her career in civil rights and human rights as Director of the Community Relations Department for the City of Champaign, where she pioneered cooperative relationships between Champaign Police Department and the community. She partnered with a Lieutenant in the police department and two university professors to produce a research document titled "Police-community Relations: A Process, not a Product", this research actively is credited with helping to change police and citizens interaction within the City of Champaign.

After coming to the University of Illinois, Dr. Cowan devoted her life to a career in affirmative action and diversity. As Assistant Vice Chancellor for Administration and Director of Affirmative Action for staff, she led the campus in establishing policies and procedures to advance campus affirmative action for faculty and staff. As Assistant Chancellor and Director of OEOA, she introduced the first major campus-wide diversity program which was attended by Deans, Directors, and department heads and instrumental in the development of the first video produced on sexual harassment prevention and the presentation of a series of campus programs on sexual harassment prevention. Currently, Dr. Cowan oversees the university's affirmative action policies and procedures, including companies such as The Americans with Disabilities Act: the investigation of internal and external complaints of alleged discrimination filed with federal and state civil rights agencies, the development and implementation of educational programs on diversity inclusion, sexual harassment prevention, disability issues and related topics for faculty and staff to improve campus climate and to facilitate campus and community out-

reach and interaction. Dr. Cowan is active in her local community where she serves on several boards dealing with education, substance abuse, women's issues and civil rights. She has received numerous awards and citations for her outstanding work. I am pleased to commend and congratulate Dr. Cowan on an outstanding career and wish her well in all of her future endeavors.

HONORING SEAN IAN O'REAR

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Sean Ian O'Rear, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 145, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Sean has been very active with his troop participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Sean has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Sean Ian O'Rear for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

COMMEMORATING ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, which is observed by communities around the world on April 24th. It is of great importance that atrocities past are not forgotten, but rather serve as a solemn reminder of the importance of our continued vigilance and opposition to genocide today.

On April 24, 1915, the Ottoman Empire arrested Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople, marking the beginning of an eight year campaign against Armenian civilians. By the genocide's end in 1923, roughly one and a half million unarmed men, women and children were rounded up, stripped of all their possessions and means of support, and sent on death marches or to concentration camps.

Nearly a century later, these events still resonate across the world. I am proud of the United States' strong and continued history in standing up to and opposing genocide. I am proud to join with so many of my colleagues who have weighed in on this issue and have called on Turkey and Armenia to have an open and honest dialogue about their past.

Madam Speaker, as we observe the Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, it is important that we pay our respects to the hundreds of thousands of lives senselessly lost. My thoughts and prayers on this day will be with the Armenian community in Oakland County, Michigan and throughout the world.

INTRODUCTION OF KINGMAN AND HERITAGE ISLAND ACT OF 2009

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, the Kingman and Heritage Islands Act of 2009 will make it possible for the District of Columbia, the Army Corps of Engineers and environmental education groups to develop Kingman and Heritage Island as a center for environmental education, a recreation site, and for restoration of the Anacostia River eco-system. Kingman and Heritage Islands were created by the Army Corps of Engineers in the 1920's as part of the Anacostia Tidal Flats Reclamation project and were managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service (NPS) through 1996. At the request of the District, Congress dedicated the two islands to a child-oriented theme park in the National Children's Island Act of 1995. This Act transferred title of certain NPS property in Anacostia Park to the District of Columbia (District). These properties included Heritage Island and a portion of Kingman Island located within the District. However, the law includes a reversionary provision to the Department of Interior if a theme park was not built, necessitating this bill.

As times have changed, the District no longer believes that a theme park is the highest and best use of the space. Instead, the District announced plans to use Kingman Island as part of an initiative to help revitalize the River. The bill calls for a unique environmental natural reserve park to restore the ecosystem, provide usable open space for residents and visitors, and environmental education, including a September 11th Remembrance Grove. In my view, this is an even more appropriate use for Kingman Island. This use also buttresses my own work in the Congress on the Anacostia River, particularly the Anacostia Watershed legislation, which Congress has passed and whose implementation is now underway.

A renovated pedestrian bridge now provides access to these islands for environmental programs and the general public. Over 40 acres of tidal marsh in Kingman Lake are currently being restored through the combined efforts of the Army Corps, the District and local environmental teaching groups. The renovated islands will include a particularly appropriate memorial tree grove dedicated to the three District of Columbia schoolchildren who were victims of the September 11 terrorist attack. Self-guided trails and interpretive stations will instruct visitors about the abundant natural history of the Anacostia River and will track contemporary efforts to restore the river's wildlife, habitats and water quality.

This non-controversial, no-cost bill will have a positive effect on the deteriorating ecology of the region. Because the bill involves a District of Columbia property, it has little national significance except for residents of the region and visitors to the nation's capitol. The bill will serve all who are here or are visiting and therefore I intend to ask that the bill be put on the suspension calendar after review by the appropriate committee.