

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.