

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID
EVANS

HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of David Evans of Joliet, Illinois. Mr. Evans passed away in his home on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. His legacy will continue to flourish in those he left behind: his wife of twenty-five years, Rosie, five children, twenty-three grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Evans was a community leader in Joliet for decades. He devoted over thirty years to public office, including service on the Will County Board and the Joliet School District 86 Board. His record illustrates a sincere dedication to education and advocacy for children's issues in the community. Mr. Evans was also instrumental in promoting positive change in the community—and stated that one of his proudest moments was the naming of an elementary school in Joliet after African-American actress and Joliet native Lynne Thigpen.

In addition to his involvement in local government, Mr. Evans was also active in numerous community organizations. He founded Joliet Must Vote, co-founded Black Pride Inc., was the vice president of the Unity Community Development Corp., and served as chairman of the Will County Head Start Program. In 2004, he coordinated a Get-Out-the-Vote operation for then-Senator Barack Obama.

The sudden passing of Dave Evans has truly shaken the community. His passion for the Joliet community will live on in the many lives he touched. He is not only recognized for his community activism, but for his life as a husband, father, mentor, advocate, and friend. It is with great pride that I honor the life of Mr. David Evans.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an article written by Donald Conkey, a constituent of the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia, regarding the National Day of Prayer. Mr. Conkey's article reads:

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Donald S. Conkey

This column on next week's Metro Atlanta Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday and the National Day of Prayer on Thursday was inspired by an e-mail, from Sally Field, that reminded me of just how much America's Founding Father's depended upon prayer to their "Creator, the Supreme Judge of the world" to support their efforts in creating a nation where liberty could be restored after nearly three thousand years of despotic and tyrannical rule that had enslaved mankind worldwide—and become a beacon of liberty to the world.

The Founders belief in, and their use of prayer, as clearly expressed in the Declaration of Independence, plus all their writings, should be a powerful example for those

Americans who fear the nation's current economic challenges and the massive directional changes being made by our nations new administration.

America's National Day of Prayer has a long history. A resolution by the first Continental Congress in 1775 indicated it was "a time for prayer in forming a new nation." President John Adams declared May 9, 1798 "a day of solemn humiliation, fasting and prayer," asking citizens of all faiths to pray "that our country may be protected from all the dangers which threaten it." In 1952 President Truman signed a national day of prayer proclamation and in 1988 President Reagan established the first Thursday of May as America's annual National Day of Prayer.

It is gratifying to know that I am not alone in believing in the power of prayer, or that God listens to and answers prayer (personal revelation), or that He answered the Founders prayers (collective revelation), not once but many times when they pleaded with Him, their Supreme Judge of the World, to establish and restore freedom to a world then enslaved by despots and tyrants. And to be able to join with other believers, of many faiths and cultures, in pleading with the Lord in prayer for "the protection of divine Providence" in a National Day of Prayer next week reinforces my beliefs and hopes that we whom He has entrusted to protect those everlasting principles of liberty given us by the Founders is reassuring.

The timing of next weeks prayer days may be providential: they are coming during the first 100 days of the new administrations efforts to bring about massive change of direction to the country, both internally and externally, and they follow last week's inspiring "call to arms" for Americans of every faith, culture, race and nationality to rally to the defense of their liberties in the form of "Tea Party" protestors. Their "Tea Bag" could well become America's new symbolic "Liberty Bell." These "Tea Party" protestors represent that third of the nation who still believe America is great and that God inspired and raised up the Founders to restore liberty to mankind with a new nation, a nation "choice above all other nations." This third also understands America will not continue to be a powerful and free nation if it continues to allow that secular third, those who reject God and want to remove Him from all aspects of American culture and dominate American politics, as they are doing today.

This third also understands that it is they who must work to educate (our schools have failed to teach these principles) that middle third who know not what America stands for or that their future liberties and freedoms are directly connected to the restoration of those principles upon which America was founded, with God's help. And they also understand they are involved in an ideological war, a war of ideas and thoughts that if lost could cost them that way of life they cherish so greatly.

And they, as did the Founders 230 years ago, inspired by Paul's admonition to the Ephesians of old, must put on "the whole armour of God, that they may stand against the wiles of the devil," including their "breastplate of righteousness," and their "shield of faith wherewith they may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" as they battle the enemies of liberty and freedom that want to destroy this nation, and what it stands for, and make it a nation like unto all other nations, as in United Nations.

And lastly they fully understand they must unite with others of differing faiths with a unity of purpose, in defense of their liberties, as did the Founders who restored those freedoms, and put on their "helmet of

salvation, and the sword of the spirit . . . praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (freedom lovers) like them."

Next week, as we pray individually, as families, and in larger gatherings as with Fields Metro Atlanta Prayer Breakfast, we should, remembering the counsel of ages past, and "offer a prayer to preserve our nation's liberties" and "that our country may be protected from all the dangers that threaten it."

Be assured, all righteous prayers offered "with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence" will be heard, especially from those willing to "mutually pledge" to stand with others and take a stand, and work to defend their liberties as did the Founding Fathers stand to create them—230 years ago.

RECOGNIZING THE DURBAN II
COUNTERCONFERENCE SPONSORED BY AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS AND THE JEWISH WEEK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, last week we witnessed the deplorable spectacle of a United Nations conference purporting to address the troubling issue of racism, hijacked by nations with a deplorable record on human rights and turned into an all-out attack on Israel. I am proud that the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, The Jewish Week and other leading organizations in New York City organized a counter-conference that really discussed the continued problems of racism, racial discrimination, genocide, xenophobia, gender discrimination and religious intolerance.

I was pleased to have been asked to address the conference's opening day. Set forth below are my remarks:

"I want to thank Robert Weinberg, Marc Landis, the American Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists and Jewish Week for giving me the opportunity to address you this morning.

Eight years ago at Durban I, we witnessed a spectacle of anti-semitism the like of which has not been seen since World War II. There are many places you might expect to see anti-semitism—a ku klan rally, a pogrom, a neo-Nazi gathering. A UN-sponsored World Conference on Racism would not have immediately jumped to my mind—until the grotesque carnival of hatred we witnessed 8 years ago.

Of course, the UN had passed the illogical and hateful Zionism is Racism resolution in 1975—but they revoked that resolution in 1991 by a vote of 111 to 25, 10 years before the conference.

And yet, the warning signs were present.

At the pre-Conference it became clear that the full conference would be dominated by chants of 'Zionism equals racism,' accusations that Israel is an apartheid state and other outrageous slanders. Israel and the United States walked out—as they should have done.

The real irony is that anti-semitism, a form of racism, should be so prevalent at a conference that was supposed to combat racism.