

After 6 years of war, suffering, and devastation, Nazi Germany was formally defeated on May 8, 1945.

It was a bittersweet victory. Over 400,000 American soldiers died in World War II; 350,000 British soldiers gave their lives; and a staggering 20 million Russian soldiers and civilians perished in the war fighting German aggression on their home soil.

The war also brought about the most horrendous systematic murder which humanity has ever known, the Holocaust.

In memory of all the victims of World War II, it is our duty to raise our voices as one and say to the present and future generations that no one has the right to remain indifferent to anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racial or religious intolerance.

This is an occasion to remember and commemorate. We must remember why the war was fought, remember the victims and heroes, and thank those who fought so hard and sacrificed so much.

V-E Day marked the promise of a peaceful future for a Europe ravaged by unspeakable horror and war. Although freedom did not come to every European nation following the defeat of Nazi Germany, today we stand at the threshold of a very hopeful future based on sovereignty, democracy, freedom and cooperation.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor those individuals who gave their lives during the liberation of Europe, to thank the veterans of World War II, and to commemorate the defeat of Nazism and Fascism by freedom-loving people.

IN RECOGNITION OF MT. VERNON
HIGH SCHOOL AND CIVILITY
MONTH, 2010

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the staff and students of Mt. Vernon High School for their participation in Civility Month, 2010.

Civil discourse is one of the bedrocks of American society. It is also one of the most difficult to truly achieve. We are a country of diversity; of different religions, ethnicities, and opinions. The rich tapestry created by this diversity is one of the things that make America great and unique in the world.

Perhaps one of the biggest challenges that each of us face as individuals is how we deal with this diversity. Dealing with someone who does not look like us, or speak like us, or has a different opinion can be difficult. But if we stop long enough to listen, we might learn something. And that is the purpose of conversation and discussion. None of us can understand another until we hear what he or she has to say. The underlying principles of Respect, Restraint and Responsibility are Golden Rules and if we do our best to live by them, we will all benefit.

The old phrase "Walk a Mile in His Shoes" is pertinent here. We must continue to strive to understand and accept one another. We must continue to encourage conversation and acceptance while discouraging bullying and tyranny.

I commend The Association of Image Consultants International for elevating this critical issue, as well as The Rotary Club and the Girls Scouts for joining in this effort. But most of all, I must commend and congratulate the staff and student body of Mt. Vernon High School, led by Principal Mrs. Nardos King, for embracing this issue.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending and congratulating the staff and student body of Mt. Vernon High School. Their commitment to civility, respect and responsibility are bright lights in this time of tense debate. We can learn much from these students. And perhaps again, the children shall lead the way.

HONORING MRS. MARY WILLIAMS
WOODARD

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Mary Williams Woodard, a constituent in my Congressional District and a beloved and dedicated public servant who tirelessly devoted her efforts to the well-being of our nation's most important asset, our children, as a valued educator of the Miami-Dade County community and beyond.

Mrs. Woodard was born to the late Lewis Williams and Lettie Deleog Williams on August 11, 1926 in Jacksonville, Florida. She was the fourth of eight children. Her family settled in DeFuniak Springs in the Florida Panhandle near the Florida-Alabama border. After graduating from Tivoli High School, she furthered her education at Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education. In college, she was a cheerleader and a member of the Orchestis Dance Club. She also met her life partner, Dr. Arthur E. Woodward, to whom she would be married for more than 58 years.

She began her professional career once she returned to her hometown and taught at her alma mater, Tivoli High School, which was the only K-12 school in Walton County for African-Americans. Mrs. Woodard taught physical education and English, and was noted for exposing students to various cultural activities. Many of her students became physicians, lawyers, educators, and entrepreneurs. Several students maintained communication with her until her transition. Integration of Florida's public schools and the Florida Teacher Walkout of 1968 forced Mary and her husband to relocate their family to Miami-Dade County.

Once in Miami, she began to work for the Miami-Dade County Public School System at Allapattah Elementary School as a physical education teacher. She later served as a guidance counselor at several schools and retired while at Thomas Jefferson Middle School in 1994.

In an effort to compliment her professional achievements, Mrs. Woodard was involved with various organizations such as the Twin Lakes-North Shore Gardens Homeowners Association; the Gamma Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; the Florida A&M University National Alumni Association, as well as the Miami-Dade Chapter;

the Rattler "F" Club; and New Birth Baptist Church. She also frequently marched and protested for civil rights for African-Americans and equal treatment of Haitian immigrants.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and all the members of this esteemed legislative body to join me in recognizing the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Mrs. Mary Williams Woodard. I am honored to pay tribute to Mrs. Woodard for her invaluable services and tireless dedication to the South Florida educational community. Her life was a triumph and she was blessed with a loving family who took pleasure in every aspect of her life and her interests. She will be missed by all who knew her, and I appreciate this opportunity to pay tribute to her before the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING WHITNEY GRAVES FOR
HER SERVICE TO TENNESSEE'S
SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the contributions Whitney Graves has made while working in my Washington, DC, office. Whitney has been a helpful addition to the office and a great servant to the residents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

On Friday, Whitney will depart my office to pursue her graduate studies full-time in business and international relations. My staff and I are sad to see her leave, but we are proud of her for continuing her education.

I've known Whitney and her family for many years and was glad she joined my staff last year. She brought valuable knowledge about the district to my Washington office as a resident of Gallatin, Tennessee, and through her experience working for the Tennessee state government. During her time in Washington, she has played an integral role in assisting me with constituent service.

As my staff assistant, she managed the front office responsibilities, scheduled Capitol tours and welcomed visitors to my Washington office. After a promotion to legislative correspondent, she managed thousands of constituent inquiries on legislative matters while supervising my office's congressional intern program.

Madam Speaker, my staff and I have enjoyed having Whitney in the office. I have no doubt Whitney can be successful at whatever she chooses to do, and I wish her all the best in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2010

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 244 H. Res. 1213—Recognizing the need to improve the participation and performance of America's students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields,