

grandchildren. I know that many of his family still reside in our great city of Pittsburgh.

Andy's family and all those who knew him are exceedingly proud of his fine career and service to our country. I want to join with them today by expressing my best wishes for Andy's family as we honor Andrew G. Roman—an American patriot.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARTIN HEINRICH

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes the afternoon of February 3, 2012, which included rollcall votes 31, 32, and 33.

If I had been present, I would have voted in favor of rollcall vote 31, the Motion to Recommit Representative WOODALL's (GA-07) H.R. 3578.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 32, final passage of Representative WOODALL's (GA-07) H.R. 3578.

If I had been present, I would have voted against rollcall vote 33, the conference report for Representative MICA's (FL-07) H.R. 658.

RECOGNIZING MRS. GERTRUDE L. MALLETT FOR HER UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO HORTICULTURE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a valued member of our society, Mrs. Gertrude L. Mallett. Mrs. Mallett is a conservationist and agriculturalist from Hinds County, Mississippi. Her wisdom and sincere affection for everyone leaves everlasting impressions.

Born December 18, 1919, she is the widow of Frank Mallett and mother to their six children. Mr. and Mrs. Mallett believed in God, family, and hard work and raised their children to believe in such.

The Mallett family is proprietor of roughly 200 acres of land in Hinds County, Mississippi, where they raise and harvest cattle, corn and cotton.

Up until 1995, when Mrs. Mallett obtained her General Education Diploma from Hinds Community College in 1995 at the age of 75, she had only attained an 8th grade education.

Today, at 92 years of age, Mrs. Mallett remains active; she advises the day-to-day farm operations of their family farm in addition to maintaining her annual garden. Mrs. Mallett is an all around craftsman and self-taught ceramicist. She crafts quilts and crochets in addition to other handiworks.

Mrs. Mallett is a servant to God and faithful steward of Saint John's Missionary Baptist Church. She taught Sunday school for over 30 years, served as the church secretary for more than 50 years and still remains active in the church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Gertrude L. Mallett for her unwavering commitment to horticulture.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL BLACK HISTORY MONTH RECOGNIZING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS OF HAROLD GEORGE BELAFONTE, JR.

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of National Black History Month and to recognize the lifetime achievements of my good friend, Harold "Harry" George Belafonte, Jr., an American and International Hero. Black History Month is an appropriate time to pay homage to Harry Belafonte and his amazing, incredibly impressive, inspiring and historic renowned career, which began at the age of 19 in the United States Navy during World War II. After taking advantage of the G.I. Bill, his career soared as an actor, musician, singer, producer, and civil rights and humanitarian activist. Due to Harry Belafonte's lifetime achievements our nation and the world are far better.

After the Great War, Harry attended and graduated from The New School for Social Research in New York City. Harry began appearing in jazz clubs, cabarets, and soon began recording his wonderful pop, folk, and world music albums. His acting career took off after his 1953 film debut in *Bright Road*. Many movies and performances later, Harry Belafonte received a Tony Award nomination for his Broadway performance in *John Murray Anderson's Almanac*. Although he was acknowledged for his talent, it wasn't until he played a lead role in the film *Carmen* that he became a true star. Harry was able to use his new popularity to boost his album sales and create a need in the United States for Caribbean music that had lacked before. He then went on to win an Emmy for his special *Tonight with Harry Belafonte*, and was bestowed the honor of first African American producer.

With Paul Robeson as his inspiration, Harry took art and activism to new levels. During his 43 years of fame, Belafonte worked against social injustice. Throughout the civil rights movement, he advised and served as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s confidant and he worked to provide for King's family. His dedication led Harry to be blacklisted during the McCarthy era, like many other civil rights activists. He bailed King out of the Birmingham City Jail and raised thousands of dollars to release other civil rights protesters. Harry managed to mobilize the Hollywood community, finance Freedom Rides, support voter registration drives, and help to organize the March on Washington in 1963, where he delivered an inspiring speech. Harry went on to serve in President John Fitzgerald Kennedy's administration, as cultural advisor to the Peace Corps.

A true humanitarian Harry Belafonte is best known for his landmark music collaboration, "We Are the World," which joined many musicians—including songwriters and producers Michael Jackson, Lionel Richie, Quincy Jones and Michael Omartian—together. USA for Africa was able to use this song to help raise millions of dollars to help relieve famine in Ethiopia. Harry continued his work by becoming UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador in 1986. Harry carries on his incredible work by sup-

porting causes such as HIV/AIDS and cancer research and educating children.

Harry was an outspoken critic of apartheid in South Africa, and he and Arthur Ashe Co-chaired Artists and Athletes Against Apartheid, which played a major role in international sports boycott against South Africa. In 1988, Harry released his first album of original material in over a decade, *Paradise in Gazankulu*. The album contains ten protest songs against the South African former Apartheid policy. He was the Master of Ceremonies at a reception honoring African National Congress President Oliver Tambo at Roosevelt House, Hunter College, in New York City. The reception was held by the American Committee on Africa, ACOA, and The Africa Fund. Today, Harry is a current board member of the TransAfrica Forum and the Institute for Policy Studies.

Following his appointment Harry traveled to Dakar, Senegal, where he served as chairman of the International Symposium of Artists and Intellectuals for African Children. He also helped to raise funds, alongside other artists in the largest concert ever held in sub-Saharan Africa. In 1994 he went on a mission to Rwanda and launched a media campaign to raise awareness of the needs of Rwandan children. In 2001 he went to South Africa to support the campaign against HIV/AIDS. In 2002, Africare awarded him the Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award for his efforts to assist Africa. In 2004 Harry went to Kenya to stress the importance of educating children in the region. Harry has also been involved in prostate cancer advocacy since 1996, when he was diagnosed and successfully treated for the disease.

On June 27, 2006, Harry was the recipient of the BET Humanitarian Award at the 2006 BET Awards. He was named one of nine 2006 Impact Award recipients by AARP The Magazine. On October 19, 2007, Harry represented UNICEF on Norwegian television to support the annual telethon—TV Aksjonen—in support of that charity and helped raise a world record of \$10 per inhabitant of Norway.

Harry is additionally known for his visit to Cuba which helped ensure hip-hop's place in Cuban society. According to Geoffrey Baker's article "Hip hop, Revolucion! Nationalizing Rap in Cuba." Harry, in 1999 met with representatives of the rap community immediately before meeting with Fidel Castro. This meeting resulted in Castro's personal approval of the incorporation of rap into his country's culture. In a 2003 interview Harry reflected upon this meeting's influence:

"When I went back to Havana a couple years later, the people in the hip-hop community came to see me and we hung out for a bit. They thanked me profusely and I said, 'Why?' and they said, 'Because your little conversation with Fidel and the Minister of Culture on hip-hop led to there being a special division within the ministry and we've got our own studio.'"

On October 17, 2011, HBO Films released the documentary, *Sing Your Song*, which details a close look at the life of a patriot to the last and a champion for worldwide human rights. Told from Harry's point of view, the film charts his life from a boy born in New York and raised in Jamaica, who returns to Harlem in his early teens where he discovers the American Negro Theater and the magic of performing. From Harlem to Mississippi to Africa and South Central Los Angeles, Sing Your