

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
LEGACY OF ROSA PARKS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the 59th Anniversary of the day that the civil rights movement was ignited. On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, tired of following societal laws steeped in racism and degradation, became a reluctant hero of the civil rights movement when she refused to surrender her seat and her dignity to a white man on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

Rosa Parks, a soft spoken, private and hardworking seamstress, was immediately arrested and convicted of violating segregation laws. The incident drew an immediate and passionate response. With the support of the NAACP and civil rights leaders, including Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., African Americans in Montgomery boycotted the city buses and declared their refusal to ride the buses until the U.S. Supreme Court denounced the Jim Crow laws that continued to strangle the soul of America. Thirteen months later, the boycott ended when, in November 1956, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

The humiliation experienced by Rosa Parks was reflective of a long line of human injustices directed upon African Americans by the white ruling class since the dawn of our nation. Rosa Parks' simple refusal was a monumental act of courage and dignity that cast centuries of injustice, ingrained in the foundation of American culture, into the clear light of day. She knowingly sacrificed her own safety, the safety of her family and her privacy for the greater good. Rosa Parks' historic refusal to give up her seat on a city bus set the civil rights movement on fire and the power of her simple gesture is as significant and relevant today as it was 50 years ago. She remained dedicated to the civil rights movement and humanitarian causes until her recent death at age 92.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and memory of Rosa Parks, whose singular life forever changed the world by raising the human race into the promise of justice for all. Her quiet refusal to surrender represented a million acts of resistance that came before her and set a path for those who would follow. Rosa Parks became an icon of human rights and her voice joined with a chorus of millions demanding freedom from oppression, echoing from the isle of a city bus to the hallowed halls of the United States Supreme Court. Rosa Parks' quiet act of defiance awoke America from its centuries old slumber of ignorance and oppression and her journey will continue to bring hope and inspiration to those still fighting to walk in the

light of human dignity and justice—in Montgomery, Alabama, across our country and around the world.

HONORING 8TH STREET
SANCTUARY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, during this season of charitable giving, I am proud to highlight the efforts of citizens in my district. In downtown Jacksonville, there is a haven for children living in poverty. The Sanctuary on 8th Street's mission is to encourage and empower children to become strong and independent by ministering to their physical, intellectual, social and spiritual needs.

Last month, the community rallied around this outreach in a remarkable way. When the mother of one of the youths tragically passed away, the community gathered funds to make funeral services possible. Due to their giving, the family was able to say their goodbyes to Latricia Ann Spencer on November 18th.

The Sanctuary on 8th Street received even more money than needed, from which they created the Spencer Fund. This emergency fund will provide funeral services for other families in need. This is an inspiring example of what individuals can achieve for their neighbors, and I commend everyone involved.

JOE CASAZZA: A FIRST-RATE
PUBLIC SERVANT

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, almost exactly 38 years ago, as I was beginning my work as the Executive Assistant to newly elected Boston Mayor Kevin White, who was to take office on January 1. I watched as he went through a very careful and thoughtful process of selecting high officials for his new administration. One of the most important jobs in any municipal government is that of Public Works Commissioner—no city official in Boston has more of an impact on the quality of life of the people who live there. It is a difficult and demanding job, especially in a city like Boston that is one of the oldest in the country and has both the benefits and defects of great age.

There were several very highly qualified applicants for the position of Public Works Commissioner. I remember in particular an individual who had extremely high academic qualifications, and at the time I was myself impressed by the extent to which this individual would bring a full understanding of modern technology to the job. The Mayor was also im-

pressed with him, but he was even more impressed with a—then—young official from a nearby town, who had been Public Works Commissioner in that town. His name was Joseph Casazza. One of the things about Kevin White that made him a great leader was the seriousness with which he approached the appointment of high officials; I was struck also by his good judgment in deciding who would best fit, and in his understanding of the importance of putting together a balanced team where people would have different strengths, in some cases offsetting what might be weaknesses in others.

One result of this process was his selection of Joe Casazza, and it is a tribute to Kevin White's judgment that as Joe Casazza now retires, after 37 years in this very difficult job as Public Works Commissioner of Boston, he is widely recognized for the superb public service he has provided the people of the City.

Mr. Speaker, too often people denigrate those who have chosen to work in the public sector. Knowing Joe Casazza as I do, and having watched him over the years, I have no doubt that he could have been an extraordinarily successful private sector employee, earning far more over his lifetime than he did as the Public Works Commissioner. But his dedication to the well being of his fellow citizens was such that he stayed in the public sector for his entire working career and it is not at all surprising that his understandable decision to retire is greeted with deep regret by those of us who have benefited from his service.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add my words of praise to Joe Casazza—an extraordinary man who has had an extraordinary career in the public service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MID-
WAY MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECT
BOYS' CHOIR ON THEIR EXEM-
PLARY PERFORMANCE AT THE
WHITE HOUSE

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Midway Middle School Select Boys' Choir following their exemplary performance at the White House Monday, December 12, 2005. Out of the 150 choir groups from across the country who submitted recordings to First Lady Laura Bush's office for consideration, the Midway Middle School Select Boys' Choir was 1 of only 40 choirs to earn the right to perform at the White House this Christmas season.

Director Tammy Benton and the Midway Boys' Choir are in select company because of their excellence and achievement and I was proud to support their efforts to sing at the White House for Christmas. During this special time of celebration, it was my privilege to help bring some unique blessings from central

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