

seeks to develop a dynamic combination of educational opportunities and art that will honor, celebrate and perpetuate the legacy of one of the world's most courageous citizens, Raoul Wallenberg.

Mr. Speaker, it was exactly 60 years ago that Raoul Wallenberg, a son of a distinguished Swedish family, risked his life during World War II, when he left behind the comfort, the safety and the security of neutral Sweden to travel to Nazi-occupied and war-torn Hungary to save innocent lives. Through his extraordinary bravery, ingenuity and compassion he saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust.

I believe that the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg's courageous actions during World War II that saved thousands of potential Holocaust victims in Budapest is worthy of celebration, preservation and a continued public dialogue. As an international hero, every child needs to know the story of Raoul Wallenberg, and how his choices can play an important role in their own lives.

The Raoul Wallenberg Living Memorial intends to provide educational opportunities that celebrate the life, contribution, and spirit of Raoul Wallenberg, as well as other historic and current figures that embody Raoul Wallenberg's extraordinary courage.

The goal of the American Swedish Institute and the Raoul Wallenberg Living Memorial is that every student will complete their Minnesota high school experience knowing the name and legacy of Raoul Wallenberg, and the impact one person's humanity can have. The American Swedish Institute will be the home of and catalyst for a nationally recognized educational program that inspires young American students to live by the vision and inspiration embodied in the life and example of Raoul Wallenberg.

Mr. Speaker, Raoul Wallenberg will always stand as a reminder of the difference one person with courage can make and a great role model for the next generation who recognized that true satisfaction comes only from serving others, in this case in sacrificing his own life so others may live.

I am confident that the Raoul Wallenberg Living Memorial will inspire young students by his story to become better, more unselfish, more caring human beings that are willing to transcend the barriers of race, religion, or nationality in their concern for others. It is therefore important to support projects like this so that the memory, legend and life of Raoul Wallenberg will not be forgotten. The vision he had for what one person can do in the face of injustice must be integrated in the moral fabric of every community, state, and nation.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, only a few-months ago the world honored the tenth anniversary of the Rwandan genocide and promised never to tolerate genocide again. 10 years later we are witnessing another genocide, but this time in the Sudan. Since the

conflict erupted in February 2003, thirty thousand have died and close to a quarter of a million will die, if we do not act.

Sudanese government troops and their allied militia, the Janjaweed, have raped, tortured, maimed, and burned entire villages to cleanse the area of African Muslims. An estimated 1.2 million have been forced from their homes and into camps, where they remain vulnerable to attacks and lack basic services.

We must stop what is happening. It is Genocide, and under the requirements of the 1948 UN Convention, the world is obligated to act to stop it.

We must insist that the Sudanese government cease support for and disarm the Janjaweed militias and if it cannot, the UN Security Council must be persuaded to authorize force to do so.

The U.S. and world must target sanctions such as travel bans and the freezing of assets of Khartoum government officials responsible to stop the atrocities. We must find out why humanitarian aid is not getting through and ensure that it does.

Lastly, we must establish a Darfur Resettlement, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction Fund so that those driven off their land may return and begin to rebuild their communities.

We must act now, if we are to prevent another Rwanda.

THE PATH TO GLORY: CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR, NAVY CROSS AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS AFRICAN AMERICAN RECIPIENTS

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the setting for the 15th Anniversary of the Congressional Black Caucus's Veterans Braintrust took place amid repeated inferences that the Congressional Black Caucus CBC and other Democrats were unpatriotic. Despite the CBC's determination to express its patriotism we support the troops while continuing to raise the volume of criticism about the current engagement in Iraq, and/or the War on Terrorism.

With this as the larger socio-political backdrop the Veterans Braintrust decided to invite some of our most heroic African Americans, their family members and advocates such as Sgt. Andrew Bowman, Asa Gordon, Elizabeth Rankin-Fulcher, Maj. Robert Greene, USA, Ret., John Howe, Steve Harris, Alonzo Swann, Jr., Allene Carter, CDR. Ross Fowler, USCG, Ret., Lee & Cornelius Charlton, Mark Pitts, Baba Henderson, Dr. Frank Smith, Jr., Betty Stokes, Mary Jones, and Isaac Prentice to Washington, DC as a special testimonial to our collective patriotism, sacrifice and valor on behalf of this great nation during her many times of trouble and conflict.

Thus, consciously choosing to illuminate some historical facts and advocate in effect that countless African Americans have served in America's wars, been shot, wounded and disabled, yet continue to be neglected, or denied quality health care and access to other benefits and services, including basic equal rights.

Equally important, the 15th Anniversary Veterans Braintrust National Issues Forum "The Path to Glory: The Congressional Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, and Distinguished Service Cross Recipients" also known as the pyramid of honor; and subtitled: "Revisiting the Battles of Sgt. Henry Johnson and Dorie Miller for the Congressional Medal Honor," was indeed a historic milestone. For the first time in our nations history the families of African American recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor, along with awardees of the Navy Cross and the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) were gathered in one room. Additionally, the issues forum was exceptionally well attended with representatives coming from as far away as Albany, New York, Detroit, Michigan, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Los Angeles, California.

While the CBC represents 26 million African Americans, including more than 2 million African American veterans, we all recognize our country faces many challenges both within and without that is why Representative SANFORD BISHOP, Jr. D-GA and I felt a moral obligation, not a duty at this time to look back and reexamine issues from the past, closely related to the awarding of the military's highest awards for heroism and valor—The Congressional Medal of Honor, Navy Cross and Distinguished Service Cross.

Here again, the Veterans Braintrust which is widely recognized as the premiere forum for debate between veterans of African descent and government officials sought to examine some of the historically vexing issues, individual war narratives, and family testimonies associated with more than a century and a half of the awarding of the military's highest awards for bravery and valor.

To help provide a framework for this historical and contemporary analysis war/veteran narratives included the Civil War, Indian Campaigns of the 19th Century, and World War I, World War II, Korean and Vietnam Conflicts of the 20th Century in the wake of growing criticism of US Foreign Policy, raising concerns about the fate of affirmative action, and the ever increasing African American health disparities.

Executive Director Ron Armstead laid the groundwork by researching William Raspberry's 'Two Heroes, No Medals of Honor' column examining two black war heroes quest for posthumous Congressional Medals of Honor: Sgt. Henry Johnson, a World War I Infantryman from Albany, and Seaman Dorius 'Dorie' Miller, a World War II hero from Waco, Texas. The column cited, although the military services, while not discounting their heroism, have steadfastly refused to go along with any attempts to grant Johnson and Miller the Medal of Honor. While countering, that although no black soldier was awarded the medal of honor during WWI, approximately 50 black soldiers were awarded the DSC, the Army's second highest award for valor in combat, for their extraordinary heroism in WWI. As a result, the number of black servicemen to receive CMH's for their heroism in the two world wars of the twentieth century remained zero until the 1990's.

Further, our war/veteran narratives revealed the Navy's reluctance to embrace black war heroes in 1944 met its timely demise 48 years later when Alonzo Swann, Jr., then 67, of Gary, Indiana stepped aboard his old ship the USS Intrepid, an aircraft carrier and accepted the Navy's highest award for bravery—the

Navy Cross. His medal came nearly a half-century after he and his African American shipmates in Intrepid's Gun Tub #10 shot down a Japanese kamikaze plane. However, his odyssey began October 27, 1944, when the captain of the Intrepid, Joseph Bolfger, recommended all seven survivors for the Navy Cross, just short of the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award and conducted meritorious mast on board the ship for the men. Yet, when the commendations were sent on to Washington, they came back, with the men being given only Bronze Stars, or lower medals with no apparent explanation for the change.

Notwithstanding Swann's long, arduous and lonely court battle to receive the belated honor, it wasn't until 1997 that another of his shipmates Navy Petty Officer Robert Jones, by then 71, and a resident of Newport News, Virginia received his Navy Cross, again more than 50 years afterward in a stately ceremony held at the Capitol Building in Washington, DC, hosted by Congressman ROBERT "BOBBY" SCOTT (D-VA).

Furthermore, family testimonies revealed America in 1951 prior to the Brown versus the Board of Education decision was a very different place when Sgt. Charlton, who would have been 22, had he lived to his birthday, July 24, distinguished himself in battle to such an extent that he earned his nation's highest recognition for valor—the Medal of Honor. However, when his body was returned from Korea, his family was denied the right to bury his remains in Arlington National Cemetery with other Medal of Honor recipients. Sgt. Charlton was a war hero, but Cornelius Charlton was black.

Moreover, it wasn't until 1990, when the American Legion spearheaded an effort to locate the graves of all Medal of Honor recipients. Through their efforts Charlton's final resting place was identified as Bryant Memorial Park, which had become overgrown.

Yet, equally poignant, family testimonies revealed that it wasn't until 1997, a half century since WWII, and President Harry Truman who stood on the White House grounds and awarded 28 United States Medals of Honor to white soldiers for their outstanding valor that black soldiers who were denied the recognition accorded their white counterparts, were awarded the same honor—the Medal of Honor. During a White House ceremony former President Clinton presented the nation's highest military award for bravery to seven black WWII heroes, six of which were awarded posthumously. The only living veteran awarded the medal of honor during the ceremony was 77-year-old Vernon Baker, of St. Maries, Idaho. The other heroes finally awarded the Medal of Honor were: Edward A. Carter, Jr., John R. Fox, Wily F. James, Jr., Ruben Rivers, Charles L. Thomas, and George Watson. Attending the ceremony was retired Army General Colin Powell, who as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was the highest ranking African American in the military.

And now almost a century and a half after the end of the Civil War, a resurgence of interest and advocacy on behalf of legendary Harriet Tubman has gradually materialized, while on the other hand the first-ever memorials to honor black war heroes within: (a) the Commonwealth of Virginia is being planned; (b) the first national park monument was dedicated to

Mississippi Black Civil War soldiers; (c) a monument/memorial is being planned to honor the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts and their families; (d) a US Colored Troops USCT plaque dedication is being planned for Andersonville National Historic Site in southwest Georgia; and finally planning is underway for the North Chicago Memorial Park/Monument dedicated to the 100,000 men who went through the Great Lakes Naval Training Center during World War II.

Later that evening we gathered drenching ourselves in the richness of Black history and feeling mixtures of both pride and pain as we awarded, or publicly recognized, acknowledged and meaningfully remembered those who fought for people they had never even met. Something quite austere happened at the gala reception and award ceremony, which prompted many to say, 'I thought we did therapy that night,' and left others crying and emotional. We have given these awards annually over the course of the past ten years. This year our honorees included three categories: (1) individual awardees: Norma Baker, GSgt. Maurice Bingham, USMC, Ret., Celestine Caldwell Hollings, Paul J. Matthews, Cpl. Fred McGee, USA, Freddi E. Moody, Master Chief Vince Patton, USCG, Ret., Ed.D., Lt. Col. Charles H. Rucks, USMC, Ret., Isiah J. Williams, III, Master Chief Harold Wilson, USN, Ret., and Wallace Terry (Posthumous); (2) organizational awardees: the Center for Drug Abuse Research, Howard University, Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, Harlem Youth Marines, Inc., Morgan State University, The Association of the 2221 Negro Volunteers, WWII, and the 1279th Combat Engineers Alumni Association; and (3) historic groups and/or sites: United States Colored Troops Institute and Olustee Battlefield Historical State Park.

Finally, as we prepare our special 15th Anniversary report, after-action briefs and legislative proposals we must reiterate now more resolutely than ever before from the very beginning of independence "We were there," and despite the adversity, "We served!" Simply read the missing pages of American history, or perhaps the footnotes and you will find the names of Crispus Attucks, Salem Poor, Sgt. William H. Carney, Cpl. Andrew Jackson Smith, Harriet Tubman, Freddie Stowers, Sgt. Henry Johnson, Mess Attendant Dorius 'Dorie' Miller, Josephine Baker, Pvt. William Thompson, Sgt. Cornelius Charlton, Cpl. Fred McGee, Captain Riley L. Pitts, Staff Sgt. Hilliard Carter, and others, as well as thunderous places like Breeds Hill, Fort Wagner, Honey Hill, New Market Heights, . . . , Kunu-Ri, Hill 188, Hill 528, Hill 543, Pork Chop Hill, Hamburger Hill, Heartbreak Ridge, and others looming as silent reminders of past deeds, and debts unpaid.

Therefore, let it be said, here, now and forever more that African Americans have not once, not twice, but repeatedly demonstrated throughout this country's long history an unwavering dedication towards the principles of freedom, liberty and justice for all. This is the true testament of African American patriotism and looms as an outstanding example for current and future generations of Americans nationwide, as well as freedom loving people around the world.

The struggle continues.

HOMEPORTING OF THE USS "RONALD REAGAN"

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on the eve of the home porting ceremony of the USS *Ronald Reagan*, to welcome America's newest Aircraft Carrier and its crew to San Diego.

The USS *Ronald Reagan* CVN 76, our nation's ninth *Nimitz* class carrier, is the world's most advanced and most capable carrier ever built. The USS *Reagan*, along with its crew of 6,000 and its commanding officer Captain James A. Symonds, will give America greater capabilities to address threats to the safety of Americans and international peace and stability than ever before.

For most of the world's history, the oceans have been a dangerous and lawless place. For over 60 years, however, America's Navy has reigned supreme over the world's oceans. Today, our Navy ensures freedom of the seas for all nations who seek to use the world's shipping lanes for peaceful purposes. The USS *Ronald Reagan* enhances our Navy's ability to do its job.

For California, the USS *Ronald Reagan* will serve as a proud reminder of the legacy left behind by our former Governor and President. President Reagan understood the importance of maintaining a strong and effective military. Throughout his administration, which brought about a successful end to the Cold War, President Reagan rebuilt America's armed forces with a steadfast belief in the pursuit of peace through strength. Because of this legacy, it is entirely fitting that the most powerful and diplomatically visible symbol of the American Navy now shares both the name and home state of President Ronald Reagan.

The crew of the USS *Reagan* will find the San Diego community to be warm and welcoming. San Diego has a mix of many cultures and, as someone who moved my family here 20 years ago, I can assure the entire crew that San Diego is a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to recognize Mrs. Reagan who will participate in tomorrow's home porting ceremony. The USS *Ronald Reagan* is a testament to the many great things Ronald and Nancy Reagan accomplished together. Ronald Reagan gave our nation hope and reminded us that with hard work and determination we could do great things. President Reagan may have moved on, but his legacy is as strong and steady as the ship that now bears his name.

HONORING THE MOSES AND AARON FOUNDATION SPECIAL FUND FOR CHILDREN

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to a worthy organization, one committed to special children and their families. The Moses and Aaron Foundation's significant and enduring efforts deserve the highest praise, as do the philanthropists who have given of themselves to fulfill its mission.