

his death last Thursday, Mr. Bayani spent 52 years working for the day when Filipino veterans would receive the benefits they deserve for serving in the United States Army Forces in the Far East during World War II.

I join the Filipino community in mourning the death of Mr. Bayani and my heart goes out to his wife, Salvacion and their seven children. In addition to serving in World War II, Mr. Bayani took great pride in serving his community as a schoolteacher and principal in his native Philippines. In 1993, Mr. Bayani retired to southern California where many Filipino veterans currently reside.

Last July, Mr. Bayani sat directly behind me during a Senate hearing on the Filipino Veterans Equity Act. Having served under General Douglas MacArthur, Mr. Bayani proudly wore his full uniform that day to show his support for this legislation.

Mr. President, Greg Bayani was one of hundreds of thousands of Filipino soldiers who dutifully served the United States during World War II. These troops fought side by side with Americans during our campaign in the Pacific, bravely defending our democratic ideals. They fought along side American soldiers during the infamous Bataan death march, a journey that claimed tens of thousands of casualties.

The Philippines were a U.S. possession when President Roosevelt called up Filipino Commonwealth Army forces in July of 1941. Under this order, Filipino forces were eligible for full U.S. veterans benefits.

After the war, however, Congress overturned President Roosevelt's order by passing the Rescissions Act, which stripped away many of the benefits and recognition that these soldiers earned and deserve. The limitation of benefits was later extended to New Philippine Scouts, units enlisted mainly as an occupation force following the war. We must correct this inequity by restoring the full benefits that these veterans were promised.

Mr. President, time is running out to correct this clear injustice. It is tragic that the Filipino Veterans Equity Act could not be passed in time for Mr. Bayani and thousands of others who served the United States in World War II.

This injustice has lasted 53 years. I hope Congress will correct it soon by restoring the benefits promised to Filipino World War II veterans. ●

#### TRIBUTE TO JUANITA YATES

● Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, it was my pleasure recently to attend worship services at the Riverside Baptist Church here in Washington, D.C. It was a blessing to me that I attended services on the Sunday in which the sermon and lay message related to the church's observance of Black History Month.

I was particularly impressed by the lay message of Ms. Juanita Yates, a

Riverside parishioner who is the sister of the Reverend Ronald Yates of Marietta, Georgia. Ms. Yates is a distinguished civil servant with the Food and Drug Administration.

This sermon reminded us all of the African American men and women who have had such a profound impact on American culture. Black History Month is a celebration of their contributions and accomplishments that have informed us, educated us, inspired us, challenged us and have made us all proud.

As we honor the contributions of African Americans during Black History Month, we should all celebrate America's rich diversity and many accomplishments.

I believe Ms. Yates has a message that is important for all Americans, and I ask that her remarks from that Sunday morning be printed in the RECORD.

The remarks follow:

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(By Juanita Yates)

As we begin our celebration of Black History Month, it's wonderful to have our young people actively participate in this morning's service. We certainly pay tribute to our leaders of the past:

Thurgood Marshall, who argued the Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas case before the Supreme Court. The Court proclaimed that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional; Rosa Parks, whose defiance led to the year-long Montgomery Bus Boycott; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who became the leader of the Civil Rights Movement and whose birthday we celebrated last month with a national holiday; and the countless others whose actions have led to a better life for African Americans.

But we must also recognize the contributions of young people. More than any other social movement in American history, the Civil Rights Crusade of the 1960's was driven by young people who marched, demonstrated, and walked through white mobs to attend newly desegregated schools. Young people sat-in, road buses, were jailed and were even killed.

A few weeks ago, the story of Ruby Bridges was shown on television. She was the 6-year-old who walked pass a white mob for a year to successfully integrate the New Orleans public schools.

A few months ago, Spike Lee released a documentary of the "4 Little Girls," who were killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, AL. That documentary first aired in theaters around the country. It will be shown on HBO this month.

I believe that it was the television sights and sounds of America's children being beaten with batons, hosed down, attacked by dogs, jailed and killed that ultimately caught the attention and sparked the outrage of the American people. So, it is altogether fitting and proper that our young people are taking part in this celebration.

During the month we will hear great music—beautiful spirituals and gospels—music unique to the African American experience. And I'm looking forward to enjoying it.

We can also expect to see film clips, documentaries, and photography that chronicle the plight of African Americans in this country. The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History currently has a very mov-

ing exhibit entitled, "We Shall Overcome: Photographs From the American Civil Rights Era." It runs through February 8 and is well worth seeing.

The music, film clips and photographs are all wonderful treasures. But it is through the literature—the prose and verse—that I believe we are most able to see the pain and suffering, problems, fears, struggles, faith, hopes and dreams of our ancestors.

The writers of yesterday poured out their innermost thoughts and left us an extraordinary body of work. The writers of today articulate our frustrations and pride as a people. Of the wonderful writers of by-gone years, Langston Hughes was unique. He wrote 9 full-length plays, 10 books of poetry, 9 books of fiction, 9 juvenile books, and 2 autobiographies.

My favorite Hughes poem, "I Too, Sing America," shows determination not to stay in the corner that an individual or country want to put you in. But you must prepare yourself to move forward.

I, TOO, SING AMERICA

I was the darker brother,  
They send me to eat in the kitchen when  
company comes.

But I laugh and eat well and grow strong,  
Tomorrow I will eat at the table when  
company comes.

Nobody will dare say to me, eat in the kitchen  
then.

For they will see how beautiful I am and be  
ashamed.

I, too, am America.

All America is enriched by the tremendous body of work from African American writers like: W.E.B. Dubois: "The Souls of Black Folks"; Lorraine Hansberry: "A Raisin in the Sun"; James Baldwin: "The Fire Next Time," and "Notes From A Native Son"; Shirley Chisholm: "Unbought and Unbossed"; Price Cobbs: "Black Rage"; Angela Davis: "Autobiography"; Samuel Yette: "The Choice: The Issue of Black Survival In America"; Alex Haley: "Roots" and "The Autobiography of Malcolm X"; Toni Morrison: "Beloved"; Maya Angelou: "I know Why the Caged Bird Sings"; Bell Hooks: "Killing Rage: Ending Racism In America."

And one of the most eloquent writers of them all, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In his "Letter From the Birmingham Jail," King wrote: "For years now, I have heard the word, Wait. It rings in the ear of every Negro with piercing familiarity. This wait has almost always meant, Never. We must come to see with one of our distinguished jurist that, "Justice too long delayed is justice denied."

African Americans have taken part in building this country and have often gone unnoticed. But yet, we have come a long way in making unforgettable marks in history.

We pay tribute this month to our brothers and sisters who have had such a profound impact on American culture. We thank God for them and for their body of work which informs us, educates us, inspires us, challenges us and makes us proud. Their writings should awaken in all of us the very best qualities of the American spirit.

In his State of the Union address last week, President Clinton discussed his National Initiative on Race designed to help us recognize our common humanity and interests. As we come together during February to recognize and honor the contributions of African Americans, we should all celebrate America's rich diversity.

"We are many, we must be one." ●

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF HARRY CARAY

Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk