

to day operations at high schools and middle schools.

Project X is a youth team building project in which officers work with an Auto Shop Class at San Marin High School to build and maintain a drag racing vehicle. It has been painted to look like a police car and has been raced successfully, bringing money back to the program.

Girls Forum, developed after incidents of sexual assault, offers self-defense classes as well as instruction in self-esteem with women officers as role models. It is also supported by Soroptomist and Rotary.

Chief Brady's tenure will be especially remembered for his leadership in confronting hate crimes. I had the privilege of observing his work first hand after the racially motivated stabbing of a young Asian man outside a supermarket in Novato. Under his direction, the Police Department treated the incident as a hate crime from the outset by assigning top staff to the case and comforting the victim. Novato held public meetings to address the crime, resulting in the filming of *Not in Our Town II*, in which the city's response to hate crime is featured as an example to the nation. He continues to promote the use of diversity materials, including those that deal with lesbians and gays, in local classrooms.

Mr. Speaker, Brian Brady's inclusive vision for police work promotes the best in our communities. It is an honor to consider him a friend and to have shared in some of his inspiration and success.

ENACTMENT OF THE NATIONAL GREAT BLACK AMERICANS COMMEMORATION ACT OF 2003, H.R. 2424 AND S. 1233

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2004*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the enactment of the National Great Black Americans Commemoration Act of 2003, H.R. 2424 and S. 1233, companion legislation that I introduced along with my friend Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland. This bill received bipartisan support in both committees of jurisdiction in the House, as well as bicameral support—having passed quickly to the floor from the Senate Judiciary Committee. I thank the President for signing this legislation into law on June 22, 2004.

With valued input from Drs. Elmer and Joanne Martin, founders of the Great Blacks in Wax Museum, I introduced this bill to help bring long overdue recognition to African Americans who have served our Nation with great distinction, but whose names, faces and achievements may not be well-known by the average citizen. Rest assured that this recognition can and will be accomplished and preserved through expansion of the Great Blacks in Wax Museum—a national treasure located in my district in Baltimore, Maryland.

In addition to the 200 existing figures at the museum, I am pleased to inform that a priority will be placed on exhibits presenting the 22 Black Americans who served in Congress during the 19th century. Several of these 22 were born into slavery. All of these Americans proudly served their constituencies and their

Nation. Other members from the 1900s such as Senator Edward Brooke, Representatives Julian Dixon (D—CA), Oscar Stanton De Priest (R—IL), Louis Stokes (D—OH), Parren J. Mitchell (D—MD), J.C. Watts, Jr. (R—OK) and others will also receive special recognition. Several of the existing figures depict Colin Powell, Harriet Tubman, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mary McLeod Bethune and former Representatives Mickey Leland of Texas, as well as, Shirley Chisholm and Adam Clayton Powell of New York.

The expanded museum will focus on Black military veterans of various military engagements, including the Buffalo Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen; on Black judges and prominent attorneys; and on the role of Blacks in the discovery and settlement of America. It will also showcase Blacks who served in senior civilian Executive Branch positions, such as Ralph Bunche (FDR administration), E. Fredrick Morrow (Eisenhower administration), Robert Weaver (Johnson Administration), William Coleman (Ford administration), Patricia Harris (Carter administration), Louis Sullivan (George H.W. Bush administration), and others who have not received appropriate recognition.

Lastly, this legislation authorizes assistance in establishing a Justice Learning Center as a component of the expanded Museum complex. The Justice Learning Center will include state-of-the-art facilities and resources to educate the public, especially at-risk youth, about the role of African Americans in our nation's judicial system. It will include a special focus on the civil rights movement, and on the role of African Americans as lawmakers, attorneys and in the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, the Great Blacks in Wax Museum was founded in 1983 by Dr. Elmer Martin and Dr. Joanne Martin, who started the museum with their own funds carrying a few figures and exhibit materials around the country in their car. Today I am proud to report that the museum currently occupies part of a city block in East Baltimore and includes more than 200 wax figures. It is America's first wax museum of Black history. The museum now receives well over 200,000 visitors a year—more than half of these visitors are school children. I also will mention that several members of Congress and their staff have visited the museum and relayed to me the awesome nature of their visit—how the figures and exhibits both moved and informed—resulting in a truly enriching experience. Enactment makes certain that the Museum can continue its mission to preserve a great part of our nation's history.

I would be remiss if I did not relay to you how important and inspiring this Museum is to its East Baltimore community. The Great Blacks in Wax Museum functions as more than just a museum. It is a stalwart in its community. The Martins established the Museum with the primary motivation "to use education, history and example to help mainly disadvantaged youth overcome feelings of alienation, defeatism and despair." It provides a safe-haven for at-risk youth and offers opportunities for young people in the community to take part in employment, intern and volunteer programs. The Museum has enrichment programs for individuals, families, daycare centers, churches, schools and other non-profit organizations. In keeping with its commitment to community involvement, the Museum's many programs serve as a means for taking learning and cultural enrichment beyond the school walls. The

Justice Learning Center will extend the outreach efforts of the Museum to homeless shelters, halfway houses, adult day care, domestic violence centers, youth residential facilities and other places to reach disadvantaged and/or at-risk youth and families.

Mr. Speaker, enactment of this legislation is a testament to the Martins' persistence and vision. Enactment also means that the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum—a national treasure—will receive needed federal support to ensure that generations yet unborn will be told the story of these great Americans. The Museum will assure that History never forgets this legacy.

Finally, again, I want to thank Representative SENSENBRENNER and his staff Joseph Gibson and Katy Crooks, Representative CONYERS and his staff Lillian German, as well as Representatives POMBO and RAHALL and their staffers, Frank Vitello, Richard Healy and David Watkins for all of their hard work in moving this legislation through their respective Committees. I would especially like to thank my legislative director, Kimberly Ross, in seeing this legislation through to its successful end.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JIM THRASH

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 23, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Jim Thrash of New Meadows, Idaho. Jim bravely battled the Storm King Mountain Fire outside the town of Glenwood Springs, Colorado in 1994, but succumbed to the blaze along with thirteen fellow firefighters while working to protect the city. I personally served as a firefighter and understand the risks they face each and everyday. Witnessing the awful inferno that fateful July day, I know Jim and his comrades battled the fire with the utmost courage and valor. With the tenth anniversary of the Storm King Fire approaching, I believe it appropriate to recognize the sacrifice Jim and the Storm King Firefighters made on behalf of a grateful community, state and Nation.

Jim grew up in Arizona and moved to Idaho with his wife in 1973 where he taught high school Spanish and social studies, and coached varsity baseball. Jim and his wife owned and operated a big game hunting business in Idaho, and he was a member of the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association where he was president, served on the board, and chaired the wilderness committee. He joined the McCall Smokejumpers in 1981, an elite group of firefighters who parachute into rough, mountainous terrain to fight wildfires in areas of forests inaccessible by any other means. He was a dedicated member of his crew, and received a great deal of satisfaction from helping others. Above all, he was devoted to his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise before this body of Congress and this Nation to pay tribute to the life and memory of Firefighter Jim Thrash. Jim was committed to providing high quality professional fire management services to protect our natural resources; putting himself in harms way for unfamiliar people