

contributing to society. Sal and Myra consider their children their major accomplishments.

As busy as Sal and Myra were, they still took the time to find a way to involve the entire family in a tobacco farming business for a number of years when the children were teenagers, even venturing into an experimental curing process which was monitored by the University of Maryland. The Raspas also operated an air conditioning and refrigeration business at one time.

The Raspas have constantly demonstrated their commitment to service through their participation in other civic activities in St. Mary's County. Sal served four terms on the Democratic Central Committee and served as chair for two terms. He belongs to the Lexington Park Lions Club and received the Melvin Jones Award in 2002, which is the highest award given by Lions Club International. He was elected to the St. Mary's County Board of Education in 2002 and currently holds the position of Vice Chairman.

Myra has been active on many county and state committees including the State Department of Education Standards Setting Committee for English; the Maryland Assessment Consortium; the Gifted and Talented Task Force; Integrated Support Team; PreK-12 Intervention Task Force; Project SMART Grant Advisory Committee; MSPAP MEGA-TASK Developer; Content Coordinator for English/Language Arts/Writing MEGA-TASK, Maryland State Department of Education; and TASK-WRITER for High School Assessments, Maryland State Department.

Both Sal and Myra Raspa are still very active in St. Mary's County and continue to advocate for children. They believe in contributing for the betterment of the community. Mr. Speaker, on this day I wish Dr. and Mrs. Raspa well in their future pursuits.

HONORING THE COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN ON THE OCCASION OF THE 166TH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR EMANCIPATION FROM SLAVERY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in one accord with all the former British colonies in the Caribbean to celebrate the 166th anniversary of Emancipation Day, August 1, 1838.

In doing so, I wish to not simply recount the histories of the islands in the Caribbean, for I could hardly do justice to their diverse and compelling paths to freedom. Instead, I would like to commemorate the great day of Emancipation with a narrative of cunning, resolve, and triumph, a story that in many ways symbolizes the history of all the former British colonies which were granted freedom on that great August day.

Early in the 18th century the British brought a young lady to Jamaica's shores to work as a slave. Like the Caribbean countries themselves, her roots were African. Her name was likely a strong Ashanti one since she hailed from that great African kingdom, but upon arriving she was stripped of her given nomenclature and was known to her fellow slaves simply as "Nanny."

Slavery persisted in the Caribbean until 1834 and then in the name of "apprenticeship" until 1838, but it did not persist with "Granny Nanny of the Maroons", as she is known today. Soon after her arrival she displayed the world-renown Caribbean penchant for cutting her own path, and escaped from her master's plantation with her five brothers. Granny Nanny then traveled around the countryside organizing free Africans in the towns of St. James, St. Elizabeth, and Portland. She eventually established Nanny Town and based the community's governance on the Ashanti society.

Like the Caribbean countries, Nanny was small and wiry, but also like these countries, she was singularly focused in her pursuit of self-determination. The vast British military presence on the island launched numerous attacks on Nanny and her comrades, hoping to force them back into slavery, but for nearly two decades Nanny, the acknowledged and greatly respected leader of an army of at least 800 maroons, withstood their aggressions. She placed guards at look-out points, sent spies to live among the slaves in British plantations, and ordered her fighters to dress like trees and bushes, so that when the British entered these human "forests" they would be overwhelmed by Nanny's forces.

In 1737 the British offered Nanny a truce: the maroons would be given land and rights as free men, but only if they promised to help capture and return runaway slaves, assist the Government in putting down revolts, and cease their wars with the British. Their only other alternative would be to continue in their campaign against the massive British military, pitting 800 men against what was, at that time, the strongest army in the world.

Nanny refused their offer.

And still, these Caribbean countries refuse. Thus, I feel that the story of Granny Nanny is in many ways the story of Barbados, Nevis, Bahamas, Antigua, Barbuda, Montserrat, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent, Grenada, and Saint Lucia.

For centuries, the people of these countries refused to accept British colonialism, stubbornly resisting the British from hideaways in cities, mountains, and forests. In 1838 they were finally freed from slavery's grasp, but they have not become complacent. Although confronted by pressing economic and social issues, they remain defiant, refusing to be defined by their problems and continuing to make important strides to attract investment, maintain good governance, and work for equity across all segments the population.

Today I remember Caribbean Emancipation Day by saluting Granny Nanny of the Maroons, the hero who perhaps most typifies the spirit of these great nations. It is my hope that we in the United States, with our economic policies and diplomatic relations, continue to support the efforts of these Caribbean countries as they move confidently and prosperously into the 21st Century.

HONORING THE KOREAN CHICAGO KOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the contributions of Chicago's Korean American Chamber of Commerce toward preserving the glorious heritage and culture of Chicago's Korean community, on the occasion of its 9th Annual Korean Street Festival.

The Korean Chamber of Commerce continues to be an integral part of the Korean Community in Chicago. As a strong advocate for commercial, financial, and industrial member rights, the Chamber has played an essential role in local Korean American economic and community development. From educating members on renewing and issuing licenses, to aiding small businesses and forming cooperatives for purchasing products, its services have been indispensable to the greater Chicago area.

Among the valued contributions of the Chicago Korean American Chamber of Commerce is their joint effort with the Korean Street Festival Committee for the annual street festival. The Annual Korean Festival on August 14th and 15th will showcase the rich culture and traditions of the Chicago Korean Community, while celebrating the Centennial of Korean immigration.

Since 1996 the Korean Street Festival Committee has planned its celebration to enrich Chicago's summer season. Last year's display of arts, cuisine, music and dance performances, and variety of merchandise, brought over 40,000 local Chicago residents and travelers from around the Midwest region.

The Chicago Korean American Chamber of Commerce has consistently demonstrated its commitment to keeping the Korean heritage alive in Chicago. Their various programs and services all contribute to the success of the organization, and I applaud those who work and volunteer their time to continue this important mission. But, the Korean Street Festival is much more than good food and entertainment. It is a chance to remember and honor all of the hard work and accomplishments made by the Korean Community. It is through this awareness in which younger generations can pass on the traditions and values of Korea.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored on behalf of the Fifth District, and indeed all of Chicago, to call attention to all of the meaningful work occurring at the Chicago Korean American Chamber of Commerce at the time of its 9th Annual Korean Street Festival. I wish them a glorious festival and a thriving future in Chicago.

BILL CALLS FOR REGULATING ACCUTANE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4598: the Accutane Safety and Risk Management Act.