

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RETIREMENT OF ADMIRAL VERN
CLARK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today in order to recognize and honor one of Missouri's favorite sons, Admiral Vern Clark, United States Navy, our 27th Chief of Naval Operations, as he prepares to turn over the helm of the United States Navy to his successor.

Admiral Clark, the longest serving Chief of Naval Operations since Admiral Arleigh Burke held that office nearly 45 years ago, has rendered distinguished service to the government of the United States and, in my view, ranks among the most superb of a long line of outstanding Navy leaders.

Born in Iowa and raised in the great states of Missouri, Nebraska and Illinois, Admiral Clark is a graduate of Evangel College and holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas. Like so many of his predecessors from our Nation's heartland, Admiral Clark determined to go down to the sea in ships; a determination that has ultimately redounded to the eminent advantage of the country that he has served so well for more than 36 years. From the Cold War to the War on Terrorism, his enduring contributions to the Navy and the Nation, along with his wise, discerning military judgment mark his long career.

Upon earning his commission in August of 1968, Admiral Clark served aboard the destroyers USS *John W. Weeks* (DD 701) and USS *Gearing* (DD 710). As a Lieutenant, the Navy saw fit to give him his first command, USS *Grand Rapids* (PG 98), and he has been in command at every opportunity thereafter, including command of USS *McCloy* (FF 1038), USS *Spruance* (DD 963), the Atlantic Fleet's Anti-Submarine Warfare Training Center, Destroyer Squadron Seventeen, and Destroyer Squadron Five. After being selected for flag rank, Admiral Clark commanded the *Carl Vinson* Battle Group/Cruiser Destroyer Group Three, the Second Fleet, and the United States Atlantic Fleet. All told, Admiral Clark has spent more than half his commissioned service doing what he does best, leading the men and women who have, in his exceptional words, "volunteered to wear the cloth of the nation."

Ashore, Admiral Clark has served as Special Assistant to the Director of the Systems Analysis Division in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, the Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Surface Warfare) and as the Administrative Aide to the Vice Chief of Naval Operations. He served as Head of the Cruiser-Destroyer Combat Systems Requirements Section and Force Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer for the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, and he directed the Joint Staffs Crisis

Action Team for Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Admiral Clark has also served as the Director of both Plans and Policy (J5) and Financial Management and Analysis (J8) at the U.S. Transportation Command; Deputy and Chief of Staff, United States Atlantic Fleet; the Director of Operations (J3) and subsequently Director of the Joint Staff.

His tenure as Chief of Naval Operations has been underscored by remarkable strength and a clear vision for the future. Anticipating the tremendous challenges of the rapidly changing post-Cold War strategic environment, he set a course for deep and fundamental transformation, enhancing the readiness and responsiveness of the Navy. His relentless pursuit of excellence and willingness to not only embrace change, but to lead it, were key factors in shaping the most powerful maritime force in our history; a force that is built upon a solid foundation of the growing and thriving young Americans who have flourished under Admiral Clark's leadership. An unwavering sense of duty, the highest ideals of honor, and a profound devotion to country have characterized this man's service. And I think he would be the first to tell you that those long years of service would not have been possible without the unwavering support of his wife, Connie. She has devoted her life to her husband, to her family and to the men and women of the Navy family. She has traveled by his side for these many years visiting the Fleet. Her sacrifice and devotion have served as an example and inspiration for others, and we will miss them both.

With these words before the House of Representatives, I seek to recognize Admiral Clark for his superior leadership and unswerving loyalty to the Navy and to this great Nation. In the time-honored tradition of the naval service, I now ask you to join me in wishing Vern and Connie Clark "fair winds and following seas" as they continue their extraordinary journey through life together, and to thank them both for service so faithfully rendered.

ACKNOWLEDGING AFRICAN DESCENDANTS OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE IN ALL OF THE AMERICAS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 175 and extend my thanks to my friend from New York for bringing this resolution before the House. The dark, sordid history of slavery in this country continues to reverberate throughout society—economically, culturally, socially. What too many in our country do not know is that the enslavement of Africans was a tragedy throughout this hemisphere, not just in the United States. This important resolution shines

a bright light on the injustices suffered by the descendants of the transatlantic slave trade throughout the Americas, and particularly in Latin America and Caribbean. The United States must join with the international community to improve the living conditions of and to empower the Afro-Latino communities throughout the Americas.

As a result of the slave trade and immigration, approximately 80,000,000 to 150,000,000 persons of African descent live in Latin America and the Caribbean, representing the largest concentration of persons of African ancestry outside of Africa. Individuals of African descent are a vital part of the population and economy of almost every country in Latin America, including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. By way of example, Brazil has the largest population of Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean, yet, tragically, only one in three Afro-Brazilians attend secondary schools.

Although Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean have made significant economic, social, and cultural contributions to their respective countries, a large percentage of these Afro-descendants community live in extremely poor conditions, in marginal communities with little or no access to education, healthcare, equal employment. As a result, Afro-descendants have shorter life expectancies, higher infant mortality rates, higher incidences of HIV/AIDS, higher rates of illiteracy, and lower incomes than do other populations. Afro-descendants, for instance, account for about 30 percent of the Latin American population, yet make up over 60 percent of its poor. Afro-descendants also have extreme high rates of suicide and homicide.

We, as African-Americans, share similar histories and civil rights struggles and experience similar disparities with Afro-descendants in Latin America and the Caribbean. In recognizing this, we are also recognizing that America shares similar experience with our neighbors in the Hemisphere.

While we have taken strides to address racial and ethnic disparities here in the United States, our struggle continues. Unfortunately, in Latin America and the Caribbean, similar transformations and recognitions of the need to address many of these racial and ethnic disparities have yet to occur.

Today, with this important resolution, we demonstrate our solidarity and we confirm our commitment to help facilitate these transformations in Latin America. Supporting this Resolution is a mutually-beneficial goal for those of us in the United States and those populations residing to our neighboring South. Creating economic opportunities, expanding growth, eliminating racial and ethnic disparities leads to greater stability and democracy in the Hemisphere.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to again thank my friend and colleague from New York, Mr. RANGEL, for his leadership in bringing this

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.